Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-92-008
Monday
13 January 1992

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-92-008 13 January 1992

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An • indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

FRONT PAGE

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Arab-Israeli Talks

Arab Delegations Arrive for Next Round of Talks 3
Syrian Chief Negotiator Comments *[Damascus Radio]* 3
Additional Remarks *[SANA]* 3
Palestinian Delegation Members Comment *[Amman TV]* 3
Delegations Meet To Coordinate Positions *[Amman Radio]* 4
More on Coordination Meeting *[Amman Radio]* 4
Israeli Team Instructed To Leave 16 Jan *[Jerusalem TV]* 5
Plan for Self-Government in Territories *[Jerusalem TV]* 5
Negotiator Cites 'New Reality' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 5
Negotiator Denies Arab Claim *[Jerusalem Radio]* 6
Arab Delegations React to Israeli Proposal 6
Palestinian Sees 'Progress' *[Amman Radio]* 6
Jordan: Parts of Plan 'Positive' *[Amman Radio]* 6
Additional Jordanian Comment *[Amman Radio]* 7

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Addresses Jerusalem People, Conference *[London MBC TV]* 7
Further on 'Arafat Address *[Algiers VOP]* 8
'Text' of 'Arafat Speech at Tunis Martyrs' Rally *[Sanaa VOP]* 8
New Year Greeted With Rejection of Occupation *[Algiers VOP]* 10

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

President Bendjedid Resigns 11 Jan *[Algiers TV]* 11
Constitutional Council Accepts Resignation *[Algiers TV]* 11
Prime Minister Comments *[Algiers Radio]* 12
FLN Urges 'Calm and Vigilance' *[Algiers Radio]* 12
Constitution Stipulates Replacement for President *[Algiers Radio]* 12
Council Confirms Vacancy of President *[Algiers TV]* 13
Security Council Cancels Election Process *[Algiers TV]* 13
Army To Support 'Values of the Republic' *[MAP]* 13
Defense Ministry Issues Statement *[Algiers Radio]* 13
Tanks Surround Television Building *[Paris Radio]* 14
Algiers Residents Go To Work 'As Usual' *[Paris Radio]* 14
'Total Calm Prevails'; Army Deployed *[Algiers Radio]* 14
FIS Reaction to Resignation, Canceled Elections 14
Hachani Calls for 'Final Victory' *[Algiers Radio]* 14
Hachani Warns Against 'Obstructing' People *[Algiers Radio]* 15
Spokesman Issues Position Statement *[Algiers Radio]* 15
Political Parties React to Resignation 15
FFS Official on FIS Election Victory *[Algiers Radio]* 15
FFS Official Fears 'Death of Democracy' *[Paris Radio]* 15
Al-Nahdah Warns Against Provocations *[Algiers Radio]* 16

Islamic Society Movement Comments *[Algiers Radio]* 16
Algerian Movement Leader Comments *[Algiers Radio]* 16
Solidarity Party Leader Comments *[Algiers Radio]* 16
Boumedienist Party Leader Comments *[Algiers Radio]* 17
Martyrs' Sons Committee Comments *[Algiers Radio]* 17

Egypt

Musa Interprets Meaning of 'Occupied Territories' *[MENA]* 17
Papers View Talks, UNSC Resolution *[MENA]* 18
Minister on Preventing Foreign 'Infiltration' *[MENA]* 18
Reportage on Algerian Presidential Resignation 18
'Constant Contacts' Maintained *[MENA]* 18
Musa Hopes for 'Stability and Peace' *[MENA]* 18
Envoy to Algeria Comments *[MENA]* 19
AL-JUMHURIYAH Editorial Cited *[MENA]* 19
AL-AHRAM Examines FIS Triumph in Algeria *[30 Dec]* 19
Diplomatic Ties With Estonia Established 2 Jan *[MENA]* 19

Libya

Nuclear Scientist Recruitment Report Denied *[JANA]* 20
Minister al-Muntasir Holds News Conference *[KUNA]* 20
JANA Editor on Aid to Western Investigators 21
Al-Qadhdhafi Speaks With Bendjedid on Telephone *[Tripoli International]* 21
Algerian Masses Urged to Take Power, Weapons *[Tripoli TV]* 21
Al-Qadhdhafi Receives 'Arafat in Tripoli *[Algiers VOP]* 22

Tunisia

Goverment Expresses 'Appreciation' to Bendjedid *[Tunis Radio]* 22
Libya's Jallud Says U.S. Waging 'Unjust War' *[JANA]* 22
Thanks Ben Ali for Lockerbie Efforts *[Tripoli International]* 23

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Prime Minister Discusses Security, Iraqi Plans *[KUNA]* 24
Information Minister Orders End to Censorship *[KUNA]* 24
Minister: Financial Commitments To Be Honored *[KUNA]* 24

IRAQ

Saddam Said Planning Terrorist Attacks in U.S. *[Berlin ADN]* 25
Palestinian Issue Viewed at 'Aziz-Baker Talks *[Baghdad VOP]* 25
Vienna Talks on Oil Export Resolutions Continue 25
Al-Anbari—Atmosphere 'Trustworthy,' 'Candid' *[Baghdad Radio]* 25
Talks End After 'Progress' *[Baghdad Radio]* 26
Al-Anbari: Full Agreement With UN Needed *[Baghdad Radio]* 26
Ambassador to UN Discusses Oil Exports, Gulf War *[Vienna DIE PRESSE 11 Jan]* 26
Saddam Husayn Awards Medals to Officials *[Baghdad Radio]* 27
Al-Zubaydi: 'Aggression' 'Utterly Failed' *[INA]* 31
Saddam: Patriotism Behind Reconstruction Effort *[Baghdad Radio]* 32
Writer on Continuing 'Nightmare' for Iraqis *[JORDAN TIMES 8 Jan]* 32
Further on Increased Security in Baghdad 34
Checkpoints on Road to Karkuk Set Up *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* 34
'Shoot on Sight' Orders Issued *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* 34
Minister Said To Predict Karkuk Uprising in Jan *[Voice of Kurdistan]* 34
Hammudi Leaves for PLO Martyr's Rally in Tunis *[INA]* 34

ISRAEL

Member of Palestinian Talks Delegation Detained *[AL-FAJR 10 Jan]* 35
Shamir—Talks Delegation To Return 15 or 16 Jan *[Jerusalem Radio]* 35
Shamir 'Optimistic' About Talks *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 35
Levi—Palestinians Offered Camp David Autonomy *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 35
Nisim Says No Autonomy Talks for 'Some Time' *[Jerusalem TV]* 36
Levi—'Breakthrough' in Palestinian Talks Expected *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36
Sharon Says Armament Race 'Key' Issue for Peace *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 36
Spokesman Responds to Birri Prisoner Offer *[Jerusalem Radio]* 37
Ministers, Official View U.S. Loan Guarantees 37
Levi on 'Guarantees Trap,' Settlements *[Jerusalem Radio]* 37
Finance Minister Views Guarantees *[Jerusalem TV]* 38
Bank Governor Comments *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 10 Jan]* 38
Purchases Proposed in Return for Loan Guarantees *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 40
Shamir, Ministers on Possible Early Elections 40
'Change' in Shamir Elections Position *[Jerusalem Radio]* 40
Shamir 'Objects' to Early Elections *[Jerusalem Radio]* 41
Milo Proposes Elections in May or Jun *[Jerusalem Radio]* 41
Ne'eman Supports Milo's Call *[Jerusalem Radio]* 41
Levi—Early Elections 'Undesirable' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 41
Court—Deportees' Appeals Hearing To Be Open *[Jerusalem Radio]* 42
Milo—Open Hearing 'Positive' *[Tel Aviv TV]* 42
Court President on Administrative Detentions *[HA'ARETZ 13 Jan]* 43
Sharon Demands To See Note Given to Palestinians *[Jerusalem Radio]* 43
Ministry Orders Closure of East Jerusalem Monthly *[AL HAMISHMAR 10 Jan]* 44
Settlers To Continue Protest; Soldiers Kill Arab *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 9 Jan]* 44
Proposed Law Termed 'Revolutionary' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 44
French Foreign Minister Dumas Continues Visit 45
Dumas Denies Pro-Arab Stance *[AFP]* 45
Shamir Briefs Dumas on Peace Process *[GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE]* 45
Levi Departs for Portugal 12 Jan *[Jerusalem Radio]* 45

LEBANON

Islamic Group Demands Shammas Recall, Trial *[VOM]* 46
Hizballah Said 'Prepared' To Swap Prisoners *[Beirut Radio]* 46
Minister Says Israel Behind Recent Bombings *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 10 Jan]* 46
Agreement on UNIFIL Deployment Reported *[Beirut Radio]* 46
PFLP-GC Radio Reports Israeli Raid *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 46
Resistance Claims Israeli Casualties in Ambush *[VOM]* 47
Fadlallah on FIS Verbal Attacks on Shiites *[VOM]* 47
Hizballah Radio Reports Bendjedid's Resignation *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 47

SOUTH ASIA

Bangladesh

25,000 Burmese Muslims Cross Over Border *[Dhaka International]* 48
Commentary: Restoration of Burma Ties 'Imperative' *[Dhaka International]* 48

India

U.S. Senator Pressler Arrives for Talks 48
Meets With Prime Minister Rao *[Delhi Radio]* 48
Opposes Denial of U.S. Aid *[Delhi Radio]* 49
Rao Says No Need for Pakistan Summit *[Delhi Radio]* 49
Commentary Terms Visit 'Significant' *[Delhi Radio]* 49
U.S. Senator Moynihan Holds Talks With Rao *[ISI]* 50
Defense Minister Anticipates No War With Pakistan *[Delhi Radio]* 50
Says Russian Arms Remain 'Priority' *[Delhi Radio]* 50

Iran

Rafsanjani First Sermon Criticizes Consumerism *[Tehran Radio]* 50
Second Sermon *[Tehran TV]* 51
President Receives Libya's al-Kharrubi *[Tehran Radio]* 51
Tehran Gathers Evidence on U.S. Plane Downing *[Tehran Radio]* 52
Commentaries on Algerian Presidential Resignation 52
Resignation Linked to Elections *[Tehran Radio]* 52
'Gloomy' Future Viewed *[Tehran International]* 53
'Physical Confrontation' Possible *[Tehran International]* 53
Velayati Says Iran Supports 'General' Disarmament *[IRNA]* 53
Iraqi Opposition Urging Army to Join People *[IRNA]* 54

Pakistan

Nuclear Technology Transfer to Iran Denied *[Tehran Radio]* 54
Reportage on U.S. Senator Pressler's Visit 54
Says India Distorted Comments *[Islamabad Radio]* 54
President, Premier Cancel Meetings *[Delhi Radio]* 55
Kanjoo Explains Nuclear Stand *[Islamabad Radio]* 55
Protest Lodged Against India's 'Propaganda' *[Islamabad Radio]* 55

Algeria

President Bendjedid resigned 11 January, Algiers TV reported. The National Liberation Front Political Bureau called for "calm and vigilance," Algiers radio noted, adding that the State Higher Security Council declared "it is impossible to continue the election process" and that it had decided "temporarily to take over every matter liable to infringe on public order and the security of the state." The Army stated that it "will act in favor of the values of the Republic," MAP reported. "Total calm" prevails throughout the country, and Army units have been deployed around important public buildings, Algiers radio stated, while the Islamic Salvation Front warned against any measure "that would water down the choice of the people" and insisted on the completion of elections, the radio continued.

Iraq

To mark the first anniversary of Operation Desert Storm, Saddam is planning terrorist attacks in the states that fought against Iraq, Berlin ADN reported, citing the German magazine BILD. Middle East intelligence services expect bomb attacks in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Egypt, as well as Britain, France, and the United States, the news agency added. The Vienna UN talks on Iraq's oil exports concluded, and no official official statement was issued, Baghdad radio noted. Iraq's UN envoy said that Iraq is willing to sell oil under UN conditions "once the technical obstacles resulting 'from ignorance' mentioned in the UN resolutions are removed," the Vienna paper DIE PRESSE reported. The interior minister overhauled the police and riot forces and ordered the security forces to "shoot on sight" lawbreakers, the clandestine Voice of Rebellious Iraq radio affirmed.

Peace Talks Delegations

Regional radios reported the arrival in Washington of the Syrian and Palestinian delegations. Israel presented a plan for self-government in the territories, Jerusalem television reported; a Palestinian delegate saw "progress" in the move, Amman radio noted, while a Jordanian spokesman termed parts of the plan "positive," the radio continued.

Israel

Military authorities detained for six months a member of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, AL-FAJR reported. Foreign Minister Levi claimed that when the procedural discussions are over, Israel will propose autonomy to the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, the "same autonomy featured in the Camp David accords," Tel Aviv radio said. He also cautioned that Israel should avoid the "trap" of loan guarantees and warned against giving up the settlements, Jerusalem radio stated. Sharon demanded that the Middle East arms race be part of the peace process, Tel Aviv radio noted.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat addressed the people of Jerusalem by telephone, "something that has never happened before," according to a London international Arabic television station.

Libya

JANA denied an AP report that Libya sought to employ two Soviet nuclear scientists, and stated that Libya has "no interest whatsoever in such subjects." A planning official reiterated Libya's refusal to hand over two accused Libyans to the United States and the United Kingdom but renewed the country's readiness to try the two before any neutral international body, KUNA observed. He denied that Libya has sought to buy nuclear technology from former Soviet republics, the agency continued.

Iran

Tehran radio, citing IRNA, reported that Iran is currently engaged in compiling evidence and documents "incriminating the United States" in the downing of the Iranian passenger airliner over the Persian Gulf, and that the documents will be presented to the International Court of Justice. Hashemi-Rafsanjani received Libyan special envoy al-Kharrubi and called for the Lockerbie issue to be referred to an "impartial international body", Tehran radio noted.

Pakistan

U.S. Senator Pressler arrived for talks on nuclear proliferation issues, Islamabad radio reported, but the president canceled his planned meeting with Pressler following the senator's remarks in New Delhi, Delhi radio added. The government lodged a protest with India due to its "hostile propaganda" against Pakistan, Islamabad radio said. The deputy prime minister denied signing "any kind of agreement" with Iran on the transfer of nuclear energy, Tehran radio stated, adding the official said that published reports of this cooperation are "totally baseless."

India

Senator Pressler held talks with top leaders, Delhi radio stated, while ISI reported U.S. Senator Moynihan's talks with Prime Minister Rao. The defense minister stated that he "does not anticipate a war with Pakistan" and declared that India continues to attach "top priority" to arms supplies from Russia and other former Soviet republics, Delhi radio noted.

Kuwait

The information minister ordered the end of prepublication censorship of all periodicals, KUNA reported.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Arab Delegations Arrive for Next Round of Talks

Syrian Chief Negotiator Comments

JN1001170392 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Washington—The Syrian Arab delegation to the third round of the second stage of Middle East peace talks, headed by Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, arrived in Washington this morning. Upon arrival, al-'Allaf made a statement in which he expressed hope that during this round of talks, which is expected to begin as soon as possible, tangible results will be achieved and significant and serious issues will be discussed, so that these talks can prove that they can measure up to the hopes of the nations and states of the world and the region.

Asked whether the recent Security Council resolution, condemning Israel for deporting 12 Palestinian citizens from the occupied Arab territories, will make the expected talks more difficult, al-'Allaf said: I do not believe that this resolution will make the talks more difficult. On the contrary, we hope that this resolution will persuade those who are trying to place obstacles along the path to peace and peace efforts that the world will not accept such practices and maneuvers in the future.

Answering another question about Israel's desire not to link its practices in the occupied Arab territories with the peace process, al-'Allaf said: I disagree with this view. How can you come here and claim that you have an honest desire for peace, while at the same time you commit all kinds of violations and acts of oppression in the region? This proves that the declared desire for peace is not genuine.

Additional Remarks

JN1001185592 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1740 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Excerpts] Washington, 10 Jan (SANA)—The Syrian Arab delegation to the third round of the second stage of Middle East peace talks, headed by Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, arrived in Washington this morning. [passage omitted]

Al-'Allaf was asked whether the Syrian delegation was bringing any new ideas to the talks. He said: We have many ideas, and we hope that we will be able to enter into substantive talks. As you know, the previous Israeli maneuvers prevented dealing with substantial issues. We have ideas, as well as the desire and readiness to enter into serious talks on applying all the principles and resolutions that can lead to a just and comprehensive peace.

It has been decided that a date will be set for the first session of the current round of talks in light of the consultations to be held by the Arab delegations.

The talks were scheduled to begin on 7 January, but the Arab delegations postponed their travel to Washington to voice their denunciation of Israel's decision to deport 12 Palestinian citizens from the occupied Arab territories.

Palestinian Delegation Members Comment

JN1001190792 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Muhammad al Tarawinah report from Washington]

[Excerpt] The Jordanian delegation to the bilateral peace talks, led by Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, and members of the Palestinian delegation arrived here at 1600 Washington time, 2300 Jordan local time, to participate in the second round of the bilateral peace talks to be held here in Washington between the Arab delegations—Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and Palestine—and the Israeli negotiating team.

Upon his arrival at Dulles International Airport in Washington, Dr. al-Majali made a statement to journalists in which he affirmed that Jordan seeks to achieve a just and comprehensive peace within the framework of international legitimacy and Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. He also affirmed the concern that the talks will proceed along two tracks, Jordanian-Israeli and Palestinian-Israeli.

[Begin al-Majali recording in English] We are here to continue the efforts toward a just, comprehensive, and durable peace based on international legitimacy as manifested in the Resolutions 242, 338. We believe that the letters of invitations issued by the cosponsors, as well as the understanding, which was reached after Secretary Baker's eight visits to the Middle East, clearly spell out that the negotiations shall proceed along two tracks, Palestinian-Israeli track and Jordanian-Israeli track. So, this concept must be kept and not to be changed.

Israel should display the goodwill necessary for the peace process to move forward. We are here to wage peace. Acts of suppression, deportation, demolishing of houses, and building settlements make peace difficult to attain. [end recording]

Dr. al-Majali responded to journalists' questions on issues related to the progress of the second round of talks.

Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation, said in her response to journalists' questions that what is taking place in the occupied territory and the related Israeli practices are linked with the peace process. Politics cannot be separated from the acts of killing, settlement building, and the demolition of homes.

[Begin 'Ashrawi recording in English] We have come with a determination to have a breakthrough and to enter into serious substantive negotiations. But let me tell you it wasn't easy. Our trip here was part of the very painful and difficult journey. And we finally got here, leaving behind people who feel that they have been hostages to Israeli practices. However, we are determined that we should make some progress and we should get into serious substantive negotiations.

We hope that, for a change, Israel will comply and will implement this resolution and will rescind its decision to deport these people. We think that if Israel continues to violate the will of the international community, there certainly should be an accountability, but we also feel that the Palestinians have to have guaranteed protection, the minimum level of protection. The peace process cannot be used as a cover for escalating human rights violations against the Palestinians.

The real purpose of all political endeavor and activity is the human sufferings and the welfare of the human beings. And if you start putting human beings as side issues, then politics becomes absolutely useless. I think the real issue is what is happening in the occupied territories, the deportations, the settlements, the house demolishing, the killings, the use of live ammunition. This is the issue. That's why we have to come to a quick agreement in order to liberate the Palestinian people.

The message actually from Palestinian public opinion, the Palestinian people as a whole, I would say is pained and angry. And they feel that Israel has been left to carry out all sorts of measures and escalations without any checks. But, they have been encouraged by the Security Council resolution. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Delegations Meet To Coordinate Positions

JN1101064492 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 11 Jan 92

[George Tarif report from Washington]

[Text] A coordination meeting held at the headquarters of the Syrian delegation to the peace talks ended early this morning, Jordan time. The meeting was attended by the leaders of the Arab delegations: Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, head of the Jordanian delegation; Dr. Haydar 'Abd al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation; Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation; and Suhayl Shammas, head of the Lebanese delegation. Several members of the four delegations attended.

The meeting lasted for two and a half hours, having been convened within the framework of coordination and consultation among the Arab delegations with the goal of preparing for the resumption of the second stage of bilateral negotiations between the Arab delegations and the Israeli teams.

In statements to reporters following the meeting, the heads of the delegations said that the sponsor of the conference will be informed of the Arab delegations' readiness to resume negotiations at 1000 next Monday [13 January], 1700 Jordan time. In their statements, the leaders of the delegations stressed that they are determined to discuss substantive issues during the negotiations in an effort to realize a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, head of the Jordanian delegation to the negotiations, told reporters that the talks will resume with a meeting of the heads of the three delegations, after which there will be agreement on the procedure of the negotiations. He noted that the negotiations will not be held in the corridors this time, but in rooms. He added that dates for the start and end of the negotiations are not something decided by any one party, but are presented for negotiation.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali and Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation, met for almost an hour at the headquarters of the Palestinian delegation. The meeting was attended by a number of members of the two delegations. Preparations for the resumption of the second round of bilateral negotiations were discussed, as well as a number of issues that fall within the framework of coordination and consultation between the Jordanian and Palestinian sides.

The Syrian and Lebanese delegations arrived in Washington last night. On arrival, Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation, expressed hope that, during the second stage of bilateral negotiations, substantive issues would be discussed and that no time would be wasted toward realizing a just peace for our people in the region and for the whole world.

'Allaf added that deportations and the construction of settlements obstruct the peace process. He expressed hope that the negotiations would be serious and fruitful in order to realize peace in the region.

On arrival in Washington, Ambassador Suhayl Shammas, head of the Lebanese delegation, expressed hope that this would be a year of peace. He also expressed the desire that the atmosphere at the talks would not be tense, nor obstructed by outside developments.

Suhayl Shammas denounced the Israeli raids on areas near Beirut. He emphasized that such Israeli practices create a tense atmosphere in the region at a time when peace negotiations are being held.

More on Coordination Meeting

JN1101142992 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Jan 92

[George Tarif report from Washington]

[Excerpt] It has become almost certain that the second round of bilateral talks on bringing about peace in the Middle East will be resumed at the U.S. State Department at 1000 next Monday [13 January], Washington time, 1700 Jordan time. Replying to questions by reporters following a four-way meeting of the heads of the Arab delegations at the Syrian delegation's place of residence at dawn today, Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali said that next Monday's first meeting will include the heads of the Jordanian, Palestinian, and Israeli delegations and will complete the first round of talks. Matters then, he added, will be decided by the heads of the three delegations. He expressed his hope that all obstacles on the path toward peace will be overcome.

Dr. al-Majali added that the dates for the start and the end of the talks are not something decided by any one party. He pointed out that the world is living in a climate of democracy; any subject must be discussed and then a proper decision taken. He also expressed his belief that the talks would begin in rooms this time and not in the corridors.

Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation, pointed out that next Monday the Arab side will respond to an Israeli proposal on the mechanism of the peace talks. He said: We are approaching the talks with seriousness and honesty in order to contribute to achieving a just and lasting peace. He stressed that the Arab delegations would exert every effort to achieve this goal without relinquishing substantive issues.

Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation, stressed the importance of coordination and consultation among the Arab delegations to overcome the obstacles being created by Israel. He reiterated that the Arab delegations are determined to discuss substantive issues during the talks and not allow the Israeli delegation to discuss peripheral subjects and waste time. He expressed his hope that the sponsor of the conference will interfere on time to produce positive results. He then affirmed that the sponsor of the conference would be informed that the Arab delegations will be ready to resume negotiations at 1000 next Monday. [passage omitted]

Israeli Team Instructed To Leave 16 Jan

TA1101194492 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Excerpts] The second round of talks between the Israeli and Arab delegations will resume in Washington on Monday. It is still unclear whether the Israeli, Palestinian, and Jordanian delegations will meet tomorrow evening Israel time following prior coordination between the various delegation heads.

The Israelis hope that it will be possible to hold this early meeting so that on Monday they can enter the conference room with the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation after the lengthy corridor talks. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik reports that the Israeli teams were instructed by Jerusalem to return next Thursday [16 January]. Therefore, the last meeting will take place on Wednesday.

Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation, said that he had received a new proposal from Israel prior to the resumption of the talks. The Palestinians are currently studying this proposal. He asserted that the talks between the Jordanian-Palestinian and Israeli delegations will resume on Monday in a meeting of the three delegation heads. Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam Majali, chief of the Jordanian delegation, said that the decision on when to terminate the talks should be made by all the parties. He asserted that it is inconceivable that Israel by itself should decide that the talks will halt at the end of the week.

This time, Jerusalem intends to insist that the next round of talks take place in our region. Reports from Washington indicate that despite all the delays, the Americans and Russians have agreed that the multilateral peace conference will indeed take place in Moscow at the end of the month. [passage omitted]

India has expressed its desire to participate in the multilateral peace conference for the Middle East in Moscow at the end of the month. Israel's representatives were informed of this surprising fact during a meeting this week in Washington with a group of senior State Department officials. Our political correspondent learned that the report received in Jerusalem notes that Foreign Ministry Director General Yosef Hadas told the U.S. officials that Israel's condition for India's participation is the same as for the PRC's: India must first promise to establish full diplomatic relations with Israel, something it has thus far refused to do. Nevertheless, this report caused great satisfaction in Jerusalem.

Plan for Self-Government in Territories

TA1201195892 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] The second round of peace talks in Washington will start tomorrow afternoon. It appears that in this round of talks, the negotiations will finally move from the corridor to the conference room. The Israeli delegation has given the Jordanians and Palestinians a document that sums up the state of affairs at the end of the previous round of talks, and judging from the public reactions of the heads of the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, it is believed that following a joint opening session, the delegations will begin discussing details pertaining to the agenda.

Our correspondent in Washington, Ya'ir Stern, reports that the Israeli delegation has been authorized to present a plan for self- government in the territories to the Palestinian delegation.

In the talks with the Syrian and Lebanese delegations, the Israeli teams will present a comprehensive framework for peace treaties with these countries.

Negotiator Cites 'New Reality'

TA1001204692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Yosef Hadas, Foreign Ministry director general, has said that Israel has proposals to make at the Washington talks regarding the arrangements for self-government in certain areas, but it is not the same autonomy discussed at the time of the peace talks with Egypt. Hadas said that things have changed since the talks in Cairo and Israel's current proposals have been adapted to the new reality.

Negotiator Denies Arab Claim

TA1301052792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] The peace talks will resume in Washington this afternoon. Israel will offer the Palestinians an interim arrangement for self-government and a draft peace treaty to the Jordanians.

Our correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that sources in the Jordanian delegation claim that, in the document it presented over the weekend, Israel agreed to grant separate powers to the head of the Jordanian delegation, the head of the Palestinian delegation, and the head of the Israeli delegation. Denying these allegations, Elyaqim Rubinstein said that no such proposal had been made and that the plenum of the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation remains in effect.

Arab Delegations React to Israeli Proposal

Palestinian Sees 'Progress'

JN1101201292 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Interview with Ghassan al-Khatib, member of the Palestinian delegation to the Washington talks, by George Tarif, in Washington on 11 January—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Tarif] Mr. Ghassan, it was announced yesterday that an Israeli proposal was made to the Jordanian and Palestinian delegations. What is the essence of this proposal?

[Al-Khatib] Yes. Yesterday, we, as a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, received a letter from the head of the Israeli delegation covering most of the points discussed between the two delegations during the previous round of talks. In some of its aspects, the letter was another step toward the Jordanian-Palestinian position. It explicitly and clearly accepts the need to begin negotiations on two tracks: the Jordanian-Israeli track and the Palestinian-Israeli track. To a greater extent, this constitutes a response to the Jordanian-Palestinian position on one of the main points of disagreement.

Moreover, the letter, for the first time, referred to the joint delegation as an umbrella, which, to a large extent, conforms with the Jordanian-Palestinian understanding of this delegation. But, of course, some points of disagreement remained, such as the number of delegates: In the letter, the Israeli delegation insists that the number of the Israeli negotiators be equal to the number of both Jordanian and Palestinian negotiators in the joint delegation—something which we still reject. In other words, the letter constitutes progress in the Israeli position toward our position, and this makes us optimistic about the possibility of bridging the remaining differences before Monday, when the third round of talks opens.

[Tarif] Mr. Ghassan, there have been press reports that the Israeli delegation will leave Washington at the end of this week. What is your comment?

[Al-Khatib] We heard press reports to this effect from the Israelis, but we have not officially been informed of this. During the previous round, the Israelis made statements concerning travel arrangements; they also delayed dates. We believe that this is meant as tactical pressure, nothing more. Things are not clear, but it is possible that the Israeli statements are meant merely as a means to apply pressure. [passage omitted]

Jordan: Parts of Plan 'Positive'

JN1201070592 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Interview with Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir, media spokesman of the Jordanian delegation to the Washington peace talks, by radio correspondent George Tarif in Washington; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Tarif] Dr. Marwan, how do you assess the Israeli proposal that was handed to the Jordanian and Palestinian delegations?

[Al-Mu'ashshir] We currently are studying the Israeli proposal in coordination with the Palestinian side. We will respond to it on Saturday evening or on Sunday. There will be two responses, one Palestinian and one Jordanian. In some of its parts, the proposal goes beyond earlier Israeli proposals, although we have not yet reached a solution regarding the full definition of the two tracks and the role to be played by the joint delegation in the negotiations. As I have said, we are preparing counter-responses. We hope that we will be able to discuss them with the Israeli side on Monday morning because it has been agreed that the heads of the three delegations will meet in a room to discuss these issues. If an agreement is reached on the definition of the two tracks and the nature of the course of the negotiations, then the rest of the members of the delegations will meet.

[Tarif] Dr. Marwan, can we describe this proposal as positive?

[Al-Mu'ashshir] Parts of it are positive, although as I have said, it does not tackle or resolve all of the issues as we would have liked to see. On some other issues, it is, in fact, negative in terms of the tone used. The Israeli delegation is trying to blame the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation for being late to the negotiations. The tone is, in fact, negative in some parts of the message, something which we reject absolutely. As for the content of the proposal, as I have said, parts of it go beyond earlier Israeli proposals.

[Tarif] The negotiations will begin tomorrow. In your opinion, how will they proceed?

[Al-Mu'ashshir] We feel that the Israeli delegation is still procrastinating on a discussion of substantive issues. We also feel that the reason for this is the loan guarantees

that the U.S. Administration will begin to discuss soon. We also feel that the Israeli Government, or the Israeli delegation, is not interested, and perhaps has no authority to enter into substantive issues fearing the fall of the Israeli Government. Therefore, it repeatedly has said that it will return to Israel on Wednesday, or Thursday at the latest. Hence, we feel that the Israeli side could be procrastinating so as not to enter into substantive issues and to maintain talks during this stage on issues related to the nature of the two tracks, the timetable, the venue of the talks, and so forth.

[Tarif] Hence, it depends on the first day of negotiations?

[Al-Mu'ashshir] Yes, I believe that the first day will give a clear indication of whether the Israeli delegation really is ready to discuss substantial issues, or will continue to procrastinate in order to return to Israel without discussing these issues. I believe that the meeting of the heads of delegations will be decisive, and will give us a clear indication of the Israeli approach in this regard.

[Tarif] Dr. Marwan, thank you for this interview.

[Al-Mu'ashshir] Thank you.

Additional Jordanian Comment

JN1301083592 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Interview with Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah, member of the Jordanian delegation, by George Tarif in Washington; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Tarif] Dr. Fayiz, if you please, the Jordanian delegation has received an Israeli proposal and has responded to it. What are the points of agreement and disagreement?

[Al-Tarawinah] We received the Israeli proposal on Friday. It deals with the proposed means for resuming the second round of negotiations in Washington. In fact, they will begin on Monday. The proposals show that basically there is a change, perhaps a qualitative and positive change in the Israeli position. There was clear concentration on the two-track approach. During the first round, concentration was on the joint meeting or general meeting, which was called the plenary [preceding word in English], which means that it has a reference, and to discuss joint issues at the request of one of the parties. In this case, we always would be kept within this joint meeting. There is clear emphasis on the two- track concept in the proposal they presented on Friday, a Jordanian track and a Palestinian track, and full recognition of this work mechanism. It also calls for meetings of the heads of the three delegations as another mechanism for meetings. It then calls for a general meeting to discuss issues dealing with or relating to the three parties. It is true that there is use of the word discussion and not negotiation. In general, this provides a kind of positiveness.

There was a Jordanian reply and a Palestinian reply. We were eager to have two answers to emphasize the independence of the Palestinian delegation. It is natural that it has its own agenda for its track, and there also is a special agenda for the Jordanian track. We presented our reply yesterday and the Palestinian brothers also presented their answer, which is connected with the spirit of the Jordanian-Palestinian stance, with emphasis on the constants, foremost of which is the independence of the Palestinian delegation in discussing its own affairs.

[Tarif] Dr. Fayiz, what is the general framework of the Jordanian reply?

[Al-Tarawinah] In fact, we are awaiting the Israeli reply. Briefly speaking, the Jordanian reply focuses on the two tracks and separation between them, along with a Jordanian representation in the Palestinian track and a Palestinian representation in the Jordanian track. We will not be involved in the process of figures again, but it is understood that there will be participation of all members of the Jordanian delegation in the [Jordanian] track and also participation of the Palestinian delegation's members in their track. There is acceptance of the idea of the heads of the three delegations meeting to discuss issues concerning the progress of the negotiations, timing, and any other procedural issues. The meeting between the heads of the three delegations also can discuss issues that might be presented in a joint meeting. This meeting of the three delegation heads will decide, at the request of one of the parties, whether a specific issue requires a call for a joint meeting, which we called the general meeting.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Addresses Jerusalem People, Conference

NC1201191992 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Correspondent Mahir Shalabi report from Jerusalem]

[Text] An historic event today: Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat was with the people of Jerusalem, the center of the living homeland, in spirit, voice, and feelings. He addressed them directly over the telephone something that has never happened before.

[Begin recording] ['Arafat in progress] ...victory when we raise the Palestinian flag over the walls, mosques, and churches of Jerusalem. They think it is in the distant future, but it is near and we are [word indistinct]. [end recording]

[Shalabi] The people gathering here stood when he delivered his speech in which he stressed that Palestinians are serious and sincere in their intention to achieve peace. He urged the Israeli Government and people to pursue the road of real peace and to end their Nazi-like practices against Palestinians.

In response to a remark that there are negative aspects in the intifadah that need to be tackled, the Palestinian president said: We always urge democratic solutions that take root among Palestinians. We have to realize that

there will always be people scheming against us and the Israeli occupiers take pleasure in finding ways to divide our national unity.

Further on 'Arafat Address

LD1201201892 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Excerpts] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and PLO Executive Committee chairman, participated yesterday evening in the proceedings of the first day of the Jerusalem Key to Peace conference. The first session was held under the title: Martyrs on the Road to Jerusalem. It was about the revolutionary experience of the two martyr leaders Abu-Iyyad and Abu-al-Hawl and the militant Abu-Muhammad al-'Umari. He made a brief interpellation on his early relationship with the martyrs since the beginning. [passage omitted]

Brother leader President Abu-'Ammar reiterated yesterday, on the occasion of the first anniversary of the martyrdom of the two leaders Abu-Iyyad and Abu-al-Hawl, that the Palestinians are determined to continue the march until the flag of Palestine is hoisted over the ramparts of Jerusalem and that they will not offer any concessions to the Israelis.

Brother Abu-'Ammar said: Since Madrid, we have entered a hard struggle which we will continue; we will not accept Israeli conditions nor will we offer concessions. He went on to add: We are advocates of peace and the Israeli enemy wants us to surrender, but we want the peace of heroes and the brave. [passage omitted]

'Text' of 'Arafat Speech at Tunis Martyrs' Rally

JN1201181092 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 Jan 92

["Text" of a speech by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat during a rally at the Palace of Conferences in Tunis on 11 January to mark the first anniversary of the assassination of Salah Khalaf, known as Abu-Iyad; Hayil 'Abd-al-Hamid, known as Abu-al-Hawl; and Fakhri al-'Umari, known as Abu-Muhammad—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. To those against whom war is made, permission is given to fight, because they are wronged; and verily, God is most powerful for their aid. They are those who have been expelled from their homes in defiance of right, for no cause except that they say, "our Lord is God." [Koranic verses]

My brother and companion on the road, the Tunisian prime minister; my brother and companion the secretary general of the ruling Tunisian party; my brothers and companions in the Tunisian leadership: Please send to my mujahid brother Zine El Abidine the love of these faithful and mujahid hearts. Greetings of sincerity and love to Tunisia—its president, government and people.

We say to him: We pledge to you, to the fraternal and beloved Tunisian people, to our Arab nation, and to the martyrs, that we will continue along the path of this battle, in this march, the march of revolution. This will continue to be our pledge until the Palestinian flag is raised on Jerusalem's minarets, walls, and churches. God willing, this flag will fly high, whether the Zionist enemy likes it or not.

Yes, Abu-Iyad; yes, Abu-al-Hawl; yes, Abu-Muhammad; yes Abu-Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir]. This revolution, as the martyr of our Arab nation Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir said, came to stay. And I say, it came to stay and prevail. Yes, it came to triumph. This is the will of the freemen and the revolutionaries, the will of the martyrs, who achieved martyrdom before us, and who were referred to by our Koran in the verse: And He chooses martyrs from among you. [Koranic verse] God granted us martyrdom along the path of right, along the path of Palestine, to liberate the first of the two holy qiblahs [Jerusalem] and the third holiest shrine [al-Aqsa mosque], to where Prophet Muhammad, may God's peace and prayers be upon him, made his night journey; the cradle of Christ, my peace be upon him.

Brothers, beloved ones: Perhaps not many of you know how painful, hard, and sad I feel when I eulogize these martyrs: My brother martyr Abu-Iyad, the revolution's giant and guard; leader Abu-al-Hawl; and Abu-Muhammad. But as this cub, Munir, [son of Abu-Iyad, who delivered a speech earlier in the ceremony] said, this is the revolution of martyrs, of freemen. Indeed it is the road to Palestine. Yes, we have to be faithful as we carry the banner on behalf of them. I tell you that we have vowed to die and receive martyrdom; they went first because God chose them: And He chooses martyrs from among you. [Koranic verse]

We vowed to provide successive groups of martyrs. No revolution has made sacrifices along the path of martyrdom as has our Palestinian revolution, the revolution of the Arab nation. Our revolution gave a large number of martyrs from those in the front rank: The front rank died, the second rank died, and the third rank died. But they are happy, because martyrs stay in paradise. If the enemies believe that by killing one of our leaders, or one of our heroes, our march will stop, then they are mistaken, they are mistaken. This march will continue until the flag of this revolution, and the flag of the Arab nation will, God willing, be raised by a cub of our country, or of our Arab nation over the walls, minarets, and churches of Jerusalem. They see it as remote, but we see it near, and we are right. And to enter your temple as they had entered it before. [part of Koranic verse]. This is a right; this is God's promise, and God does not break his promise.

When we launched this revolution, we called it a revolution for the Arab nation that compliments the other Arab revolutionaries from the ocean to the Gulf. It may be that your Lord may yet show mercy unto you; and for the nonbelievers we have prepared a blazing fire. [Koranic verses]

Yes, we will enter the mosque, whether the enemy likes it or not. When we launched this revolution, we did not invite people to a party or a picnic; but, rather, to a revolution in this Arab nation, in this new world, a new rising world. Imperialism wants our Arab nation to stay in the abyss. It wants the new world to be achieved at our expense. But, I say that as long as there are martyrs like Abu-Iyad, Abu-al-Hawl, and Abu-Muhammad in this nation, it will never kneel and will have a place in the sun. This nation is a nation of martyrs, a nation of jihad. We have historical and pan- Arab responsibilities, to be or not to be. Either to have a place in the sun, or to have the new world order at our expense.

It was not a coincidence that the hand of treachery reached out to my brothers, the PLO martyrs, at the beginning of the Gulf war. I say it was not a coincidence because they sought to confuse the Palestinian leadership, the PLO, and the militants and honorable men in our Arab nation. Abu-Iyad and Abu-al-Hawl were not only leaders in the PLO and the Palestinian march, but also leaders in our Arab nation.

As we now enter this political battle, the battle of negotiations, which I call the political battle in Madrid and the political battle in Washington, we will not accept Israeli conditions, protected by U.S. conditions. Let it be clear that we want peace, but the peace of courageous, heroic men. I know they want to bring this Arab nation to its knees. But they will not be able to take anything. The Israeli enemy wants the Arab nation's capitulation.

I cannot forget the Palestinian peace initiatives. We have proposed a peace initiative to achieve peace in the land of peace, in the land of messengers and prophets in Palestine, and not a capitulation. Therefore, on your behalf, and on behalf of the Palestinian hero, the child carrying the sacred stones in Palestine who embraces the child carrying the RPG in southern Lebanon, if you fire a shell against Israel, the world will go mad. This is the balance of power they want us to understand.

But when air raids take place at the time when the Arab delegations are in Washington, this is permissible for the Israeli enemy. The Americans left us in the corridor waiting for nine days, when the Israeli delegation was late in arriving. Then in one day, in 24 hours, they managed to remove the racist label from Zionism.

The response to the UN resolution came in less than 24 hours in the form of a racist decision to deport 12 Palestinian citizens, in a clear and blatant violation of all international laws and norms. Following that, and even at the same time, came the Knesset's decision to approve a huge budget for settlement activities which amounted to 25 percent of the Israeli budget.

To reinforce these settlement activities, and to reinforce that decision, bloodthirsty settlers were allowed to wreak havoc and spread terror in our villages, towns, and refugee camps while carrying all types of personal weapons.

In this regard, I wish to remind you that on 19 February 1989 the American [as heard] Zionist newspaper, THE JEWISH CHRONICLE, published a map showing the borders of greater Israel. That map is also printed on the Israeli shekel. The map covers all of Palestine, all of Lebanon, all of Jordan, half of Syria, half of Saudi Arabia up to the city of Khaybar, and one third of Iraq.

Brother Abu-'Ammar recalled the Sykes-Picot agreement, the Balfour Declaration, and the post-World War II Yalta agreement, and the partition plan dividing Palestine into an Arab state and a Jewish one, noting that while a Jewish state came into being, the Palestinian state did not materialize, but was swallowed up by the former. They have pursued us to the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and will only agree to self-rule for us. Thus, with utmost insolence, Shamir and Sharon and company will decide our people's future for them and how they will lead their lives. What is taking place, therefore, are not proper political negotiations; it is a political battle which we will carry on until the Palestinian flag flies over Jerusalem. This Arab land is Arab and will remain so—a land speaking Arabic rather than Hebrew or American. This nation shall not kneel as they had thought it would in steadfast Beirut that gave 72,000 martyrs and wounded. In the intifadah of the occupied land, which has entered its 50th month and fifth year, the vigor of the intifadah has left 1,800 people martyred, 98,000 others wounded, 6,500 handicapped, 7,600 miscarriages caused by internationally- banned chemical poison gas as corroborated by high-level medical missions from the Netherlands, Belgium, and the United States itself, after analyzing the materials used against the intifadah. These international missions are unanimous that the chemical bombs used are internationally-banned, and yet, alas, the world stands by. These savage massacres are being perpetrated against our people as if these weapons were disallowed except against our people—the people who have been made a field for experiments to try out all kinds of weapons.

I would like to tell you that we want the peace of the brave, not the peace of capitulation and cowards. I tell you that this revolution will live on in continuous waves until the Palestinian flag flies over the walls of Jerusalem. This Palestinian intifadah and the children of the stones will live on in continuous waves until they raise their flag and force this Palestinian banner on the Israeli enemy.

Brother Prime Minister: We will not forget the Tunisian blood and the Palestinian blood and the Arab blood that mingled in Palestine, Tunis, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and Egypt, and every Arab country. This pure blood, brothers, is the stuff of revolutions. Thank God, none of us has tired. As Munir Khalaf said: By God, we envy our martyrs; by God, Abu-Iyad used to envy the martyrs just as I do now. May God grant us martyrdom along the road of jihad. Our struggle is jihad. When we launched this revolution we sought permission from no one, and we are not about to seek it for our coming march. But we will consult with our comrades and our brothers in consolidating it. Jihad will not be decreed by anyone

other than our people. Our Arab nation has to protect this decision. Those who lend a hand in this effort will be honored in the bright pages of history. As for traitors, theirs will be a black fate, and they will be spared by neither history nor our Arab nation. Glory to Allah who did take His servant for a journey by night from the sacred mosque to the farthest mosque whose precincts We did bless, in order that We might show him some of Our signs: For He is the One who heareth and seeth all things. [Koranic verse]

Therefore, brothers Abu-Iyad, Abu-al-Hawl, Abu-Muhammad, beloved brothers: We are following the path; we tell you, the pledge and the oath will be kept. This revolution which these virtuous martyrs have, throughout, watered with their blood, will triumph. [preceding two words repeated three times]

Allah hath purchased of the believers their persons and their goods; for theirs in return is the garden of paradise; they fight in His Cause, and slay and are slain: A promise binding on Him in truth, through the Torah, the Gospel, and the Koran, and who is more faithful to His covenant than Allah? [Koranic verse]

It is revolution until victory. [sentence repeated three times]

New Year Greeted With Rejection of Occupation

LD1201064192 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Excerpts] Brothers, the Palestinians mark every new year with commemoration of the anniversary of the launching of the Palestinian intifadah, the anniversary of rebellion against the ugliest injustice in history, and of their rejection of the fait accompli which is based on occupation of their country, denial of their existence, and their banishment outside the border of history. In the wake of the new year, the Palestinians receive a new and different phase. Pressure is at its heighest, friends are rare, and brothers are busy with their own little wars. Dozens of thousands of Palestinian martyrs have been killed for over a quarter of a century. Some of them we have known as friends, militants, and struggle comrades. But what we knew even better, however, is the utility of rebellion, rejection, and sacrifice which lies in the depths and thoughts of this people. [passage omitted]

The Palestinians receive the new year with the flame of rebellion still burning inside them, still alive in the consciousness of this people which is today trying an extra weapon at a time when weapons have become rare: the weapon of political struggle for attaining the day of victory. It may be the year of rendezvous with freedom or it may not. What is sure, however, is that the march of this people has consisted in offering enough sacrifices by its martyrs and sons to make the issue of victory only a matter of time. Let this people preserve the flame of revolution because it is that guarantee of victory. Let it keep in its hands the force of rejection of occupation and injustice because that force is the self-perpetuating factor of its existence in the face of oppression and the darkness of occupation. Blessed be the martyrs of Palestine, the martyrs of the Arab nation; we say to them and to those who follow in their footsteps: May you wake up to a homeland.

Algeria

President Bendjedid Resigns 11 Jan

LD1101203892 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1920 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] [Announcer] Before we continue this bulletin, it seems that there is something new that is reported to us by Abdelkader Mami:

[Mami] Ladies and gentlemen, his excellency President Chadli Bendjedid received the chairman and members of the Constitutional Council at his residence today. He handed the council a letter containing his resignation from the presidency of the Republic. [video shows Bendjedid receiving the members of the Constitutional Council; he then hands the council chairman a letter]

[Begin recording] [Bendjedid] Following my assessment of the situation [word indistinct] in the country, and following a lengthy reflection about the current period and the recent developments witnessed by the country, and in order not to constitute an obstacle to any ideas which can preserve the unity of the nation and the security and stability of the country, I have made a decision, and I want to announce this decision to you all. Members of the Constitutional Council, Mr. Chairman: I announce before you my resignation from the presidency of the Republic as from today. I hope that through the letter I have signed, the Algerian public will be told about this decision, which is not an evasion of responsibility. On the contrary, I think that in view of this difficult and critical phase, I preferred to make this decision for the benefit of the country and the nation, as well as for the unity of the people and the stability and security of the country. This is the decision I wanted to announce officially before you. Thank you.

[Constitutional Council Chairman Abdelmalek Benhabyles] Thank you, Your Excellency the President. [Word indistinct] we have received the letter and listened to the statement you made in this decisive phase in the history of our country. We, as a constitutional body in charge of the observance of the Constitution, received this letter and in accordance with the stipulations of the Constitution, the Constitutional Council is to meet immediately to confirm your decision.

[Bendjedid] Thank you. I told the Constitutional Council, and to put the brothers in the picture, that about one week or more following the session of the parliament, the National People's Assembly, I dissolved the assembly. So, the only official institution remaining after the president of the Republic is the Constitutional Council. This is why I summoned you, and I thank you again.

[Mami] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Brothers, sisters, citizens: No doubt you know that I was not desirous of being elected to the post of president of the Republic in the aftermath of the death of the late President Houari Boumedienne. My acceptance of the election was only to comply with the wish and persistence of my comrades. Even at the time I knew that it was both a heavy responsibility and a great honor. Since then, I have been trying to perform my tasks with the utmost conscientiousness and a sense of duty. My conviction has been that the Algerian people should be given the means to fully express their will, especially because they have already once before paid a high price for regaining their position on the international scene. Therefore, as soon as conditions permitted, I worked to open the democratic course necessary for the completion of the achievements of the liberation revolution.

Here we are today living a democratic and pluralistic experiment, one characterized by many excesses, in the midst of an environment marked by extremely conflicting currents. Therefore, the measures taken and the systems demanded to resolve our problems have today reached a point which cannot be overstepped without grave and imminent harm to national coherence and to the preservation of public order and national unity.

No doubt signs of this situation are no longer a secret. In the face of the extent of this unexpected danger, I consider in the depth of my heart and consciousness that the initiatives being taken are not likely to guarantee peace and harmony among the citizens at this time.

In the face of these grave developments, I have thought at great length about the critical situation and possible solutions. The sole result that I arrived at is that I cannot continue performing my duties without harming the sacred pledge I made to the nation.

Being aware of my responsibilities at this historic moment that our nation has reached, I consider that the only solution to the current crisis lies in my withdrawal from the political scene. For that reason, brothers, sisters, and citizens, as of today I relinquish the duties of president of the Republic.

I ask each and every one of you to consider this decision a sacrifice on my part in the nation's best interests. Long live Algeria; glory and immmortality to our martyrs. Chadli Bendjedid, in Algeria, 11 January 1992. [end recording]

Constitutional Council Accepts Resignation

LD1101205592 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1926 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] Following a meeting of the Constitutional Council, chairman of the council Abdelmalek Benhabyles read the following statement:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

After having seen the statement that his excellency President Chadli Bendjedid made, and after perusing the letter that President Chadli Bendjedid delivered to the

Constitutional Council, we declare the confirmation of his resignation from his tasks as president of the Republic.

Prime Minister Comments

LD1201001392 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2250 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Address to the nation by Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali in Algiers on 11 January—live or recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Prayers and the peace of God be upon the most honorable of all prophets and messengers of God.

Citizens, you all heard the text of the letter that the president of the Republic addressed to the nation this evening announcing his resignation. You also learned that the Constitutional Council held its legal meeting and officially confirmed the final wish of the presidency.

As a result of that decision, a situation emerged the likes of which Algeria has never known. The constitutional institutions are tackling the various aspects of this situation in accordance with the provisions of the laws of the country. With regard to the government, the Constitution states that the government is called upon to continue to carry out the high tasks assigned to it in all fields linked to the running of the affairs of the country.

In this connection, I have to state, citizens, that the government places the safeguarding of the security of the homeland and the citizens at the forefront of its priorities.

Therefore, as soon as the news of the president's resignation reached me, I asked the People's National Army, by way of prevention, to take the necessary measures in order to contribute to the protection of public security and the safety of the citizens, in accordance with Law 91/23. I am conveying information of this measure to the public in implementation of clause 18 of Presidential Decree 91/488.

Citizens, the president's resignation came at a time when the country is passing through critical circumstances. I address you all and ask each one of you to have a spirit of responsibility, maintain calm, and discharge the high tasks of whatever situation and position you may occupy. I will not omit, in addressing the officers, noncommissioned officers, and men of our National People's Army to emphasize what I already said in my statement on 5 June and in numerous other statements, namely that this army has proved in word and deed that it is the descendant of the National Liberation Army and that it represents a great gain of this nation. It is the mighty and trustworthy right arm of the nation in safeguarding its sovereignty, unity, and constants, including our tolerant faith, and in protecting the people and their safety.

Also, I address a special greeting and urgent call to the security forces, the family of the civil service, and all those who work in the vital sectors of the country. I appeal to them to see that their efforts match the level of the challenge—the challenge which must inevitably be faced as one rank and with the greatest degree of earnestness and firmness.

We all have to be alert to what this situation requires in terms of vigilance, foresight, awareness, national spirit, solidarity, and tolerance. May God guide all of us to what is good for the people and the country.

FLN Urges 'Calm and Vigilance'

LD1201235192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] The National Liberation Front [FLN] Political Bureau tonight issued a statement saying that the surprise resignation of the Republic's president under these difficult circumstances witnessed by the country might make the situation more complicated if their effects and results are not faced with great wisdom and farsightedness on the part of all.

The same statement says that whatever the motives and conditions that made the Republic's president choose this solution, those who, in accordance with the Constitution, assume the task of managing this stage bear a great responsibility in tackling the issues on the table. The FLN Political Bureau statement recalls the previous statement the Bureau issued on 1 January 1992 and affirms that adherence to and respect for the Constitution represent the safest way to secure stability and preserve national unity.

The bureau also notes the National People's Army's commitment to respect the Constitution and to protect the Republic's institutions. The FLN Political Bureau concludes that it is following with great interest the development of the situation and urges all activists to show calm and vigilance.

Constitution Stipulates Replacement for President

LD1201043792 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] It is noteworthy to recall that the Constitution endorsed in the February 1989 referendum stipulates in Articles 84 and 85, in the chapter which deals with the executive, that in the event of the Republic president's resignation or death the Constitutional Council must convene and decide that the post of the Republic's president has become vacant.

In the event that the post of speaker of the National People's Assembly is vacant, the Constitutional Council chairman takes over the duties of the president for a period not exceeding 45 days, during which presidential elections must be held. The Constitution also stipulates that the government in office cannot be dismissed or reshuffled during the period following the president's incapacitation, death, or resignation until the next president takes office.

Council Confirms Vacancy of President

LD1201194792 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Statement issued by the Constitutional Council in Algiers on 12 January—read by announcer]

[Text] After perusing the letter of resignation of Mr. Chadli Bendjedid from the post of presidency of the Republic dated 11 January 1992, the Constitutional Council, at its meeting held today, and in accordance with the Constitution, and as per the statute which contains the rules of the procedure of action of the Constitutional Council, and in accordance with the presidential decree dated 4 January 1992 concerning the dissolution of the National People's Assembly, confirms the definitive vacancy of the presidency of the Republic.

On the other hand, considering that the Constitution did not mention in its provisions a situation in which the vacancy by dissolution of the National People's Assembly coincides with the vacancy of the presidency of the Republic by resignation, and considering that the conditions under which the resignation of the president of the Republic are linked to the situation prevailing in the country, the Constitutional Council states that the institutions vested with the constitutional powers mentioned in Articles 24, 75, 79, 129, 130, and 153 of the Constitution, must ensure the continuity of the state and provide the necessary conditions for a normal functioning of the institutions and the constitutional regime.

[Signed] Abdesslem Benhabyles, chairman of the Constitutional Council; and the members of the Constitutional Council: Ahmed Mitatla, Abdelwaheb Bakhchi, Kebira Kacem, Ahmed Lamine Tarfaya, Azzouz Nasseri, and Abdelkrim Sidi Moussa

Security Council Cancels Election Process

LD1201222292 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 2135 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Statement issued by the State Higher Security Council in Algiers on 12 January; from unscheduled news bulletin—read by announcer]

[Text] In consideration of the statement by the president of the Republic on 11 January 1992 through which he resigned his tasks as head of state; in consideration of the decision of the Constitutional Council noting the definitive vacancy of the presidency in accordance with Article 84, clause 4 of the Constitution; in consideration of the statement today by the Constitutional Council noting the state of a constitutional vacuum resulting from the coincidence of the vacancy in the presidency with the resignation and the People's National Assembly through dissolution; in consideration of the fact that the aforementioned statement of the Constitutional Council calls for the institutions empowered with constitutional powers stipulated in Articles 24, 75, 129, 130, and 153 of the Constitution to attend to the continuation of the state and secure the necessary conditions for the normal functioning of institutions and the constitutional regime; therefore, the Higher Security Council, meeting today in Algiers at the headquarters of the cabinet, has decided unanimously:

First, it is noted that it is impossible to continue the election process until the necessary conditions for the normal functioning of institutions, as stipulated in the last paragraph of the statement issued by the Constitutional Council, are fulfilled.

Second, it decided temporarily to take over every matter liable to infringe on public order and the security of the state.

Third, it announces that it is in an open session and is meeting without interruption to fulfill its obligations until a solution is found by the institutional bodies who are notified of the vacancy in the presidency.

Army To Support 'Values of the Republic'

LD1101172492 Rabat MAP in English 1318 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] Jan. 11 (MAP)—The Algerian Army "will act in favor of the values of the Republic", an authorized military source told the Algerian independent LE MATIN daily.

"The Algerian Army is united and can act as a single man", the same source added in reaction to information disseminated these last days on dissent within the Army. The Army follows with "calm and determination the evolution of the situation in Algeria", the source went on.

The Army will act to preserve "republican values and implicitly to frustrate any move destined to foil the conduct of the second round of elections due next Thursday", the source added denying information and rumors that the Army could intervene to "stall the democratic process, which enabled the Islamists win".

A deployment of the Army have reportedly been carried out in some towns of the country as a preemption to cope with any possible evolution especially that some trends called for the boycott of the second round risking to cause disturbance during the voting.

The preparations for the round are carried out normally and the Algerian Administration has worked out a new "ballot paper" with the names and photos of the candidates to help illiterate people choose and thus avoid the cancellation of inappropriate ballot that numbered more than one million during the first round.

Defense Ministry Issues Statement

LD1201022192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0200 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] The Ministry of Defense has issued a statement. The following is the text:

Following the president of the Republic statement announcing his resignation as head of state, the National People's Army reiterates its loyalty to the Constitution and its trust in the existing constitutional bodies.

Therefore, the National People's Army complies, in accordance with its duties toward the homeland, with the head of government's request in accordance with Law No. 91/23 of 6 December 1991 stipulating the participation of the National People's Army in the protection of public order tasks.

Tanks Surround Television Building

LD1101214792 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 2130 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Report by Algiers correspondent Mathieu Aron on developments following President Chadli Bendjedid's resignation]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Two tanks have taken up positions in front of the palace of the Republic's president and in front of the television building. Everyone in Algiers awaits the Army's reaction this evening. A state of emergency could be declared. [passage omitted]

Algiers Residents Go To Work 'As Usual'

LD1201180292 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 1700 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Excerpts] Twenty-four hours after the announcement of the resignation of President Chadli, the Algerians are working as usual. It is true that armored cars and troops surround several buildings in the capital, but there are no signs of tension. [passage omitted] On the line from Algiers is Mathieu Aron:

[Aron] (?Algiers is calm). In Bab el-Oued, a fundamentalist stronghold, young bearded men are piling large boxes into a van. They are taking to a safe place documents that had been stored on the premises of the FIS' [Islamic Salvation Front] office. The Islamic officials have still not reacted officially, and the headquarters of their party is closed to journalists.

The town is calm. Police contingents have been beefed up at strategic intersections. The government palace is guarded by troops. Five armored vehicles have taken up position around the building, and soldiers in combat uniforms, with automatic weapons slung over their shoulders, are on guard.

Diplomats have reported the arrival of troops in the suburbs of Algiers. [passage omitted]

'Total Calm Prevails'; Army Deployed

LD1201061492 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] Total calm and a normal situation prevail in all parts of the homeland since last night following Mr. Chadli Bendjedid's announcement of his resignation from the presidency of the Republic. In the capital it was observed that small units of the National People's Army have been deployed around the most important public establishments and authorities such as the prime minister's office, some ministries, and the public treasury, as well as the radio and television premises and the telephone complexes. The deployment of some Army units in some locations has come in response to the request of the prime minister.

FIS Reaction to Resignation, Canceled Elections

Hachani Calls for 'Final Victory'

LD1101151692 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] The election campaign continues. Radio correspondent Mustafa Abdou reports to us about the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] rally chaired by Abdelkader Hachani, head of the provisional executive bureau, held today in Bordj Menaiel, Boumerdes Province:

[Abdou] [Beginning of sentence not heard] ...during which Hachani made a speech which he began by expressing his satisfaction with the results of the first round of legislative elections. He said that those results were expected and that on their basis the Islamic state will be established in Algeria. The first cornerstones of this state will be laid during the current year, God willing.

He also tackled the legislative elections to say that his party kept rejecting them and hesitated to take part in them. However, the party finally accepted the rules of the democratic game and expressed its readiness to compete with other political parties which appointed candidates for the elections.

Hachani said that we consequently accepted that the people has its say because we are sure that it will finally be God's say. He then recalled the 12 June 1990 events and said that they were the expression of the people's will. He also recalled the preparatory phases that the election process went through and emphasized that it was characterized by many difficulties and obstacles put in the way of the FIS to prevent its participation in the elections.

Despite all this, he said, the FIS took part in these elections—that is, the first round—and it won in this first phase a big majority of the vote, which gives it hope for a certain final victory in the second round of the balloting.

As for the FIS' stand vis-a-vis women, he said that the FIS will guarantee all their political and civil rights and also their participation in national activities. As for collective and individual liberties, he emphasized that they will be respected.

Hachani Warns Against 'Obstructing' People

LD1001165492 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Abdelkader Hachani warned the regime and the political parties in Algiers against obstructing the people's choice. Cheikh Hachani, in addressing a gathering of his party's followers during the Friday sermon at the Kouba Mosque, said that the decision to establish the Islamic state is now in the hands of the people.

For his part, Abu Khaireddine called on the press not to confuse the religious speeches in mosques and official political speeches by the FIS.

Spokesman Issues Position Statement

LD1201192892 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Excerpt] Twenty-four hours after the resignation of the president of the Republic has passed, the public security situation in the country is characterized by complete calm and with the citizens preoccupied with their daily tasks and work.

Highway traffic is also normal. The only observed exception is that National People's Army units are deployed around the major official buildings and that some guards are posted at major intersections in the capital.

Despite this calm, a kind of bewilderment still prevails, and the citizens are adopting a waiting attitude to what the coming hours and days will bring in the way of a solution to this political crisis.

In this connection, some signs give rise to relief. The National People's Army affirms its loyalty to the Constitution, and the reaction of the political associations and parties generally calls for calm, national unity, and the need to have a spirit of responsibility.

Following the resignation of the president of the Republic from his tasks as the head of state, the National People's Army reaffirmed its loyalty to the Constitution and its confidence in the existing constitutional institutions.

This was contained in a statement issued by the national Defense Ministry. It added that the National People's Army will discharge its duty to the nation by responding firmly to the request of the prime minister in accordance with the law that concerns the participation of the National People's Army in the tasks of protecting public security.

As for the reactions of parties, this is a spokesman for Mr. Abdelkader Hachani, the official in charge of the national provisional executive bureau of the Islamic Salvation Front. The spokesman says the following:

[Begin unidentified spokesman recording] The FIS, out of a sense of responsibility before God and then before the nation and history, warns against any measure that would water down the choice of the people, and it insists on completing the electoral process. It reminds the chairman of the Constitutional Council, after assuming the functions of the head of state, of his responsibility to protect the legitimate course, the sole guarantor of the stability and protection of the interests of the country and people.

The FIS also emphasizes the need to release the political prisoners, primary among whom are the leaders of the FIS, and it calls on the National People's Army establishment and the security organs, gendarmerie, and police to bear their responsibility in safeguarding the choice of the people. [end recording]

Here is Mr. Hocine Ait Ahmed, who presents the position of the FFS [Socialist Forces Front]:

[Begin Ahmed recording] The resignation of the president of the Republic came suddenly, to hinder the first legislative elections in the era of pluralism. At the same time, it has come to dangerously obstruct the democratic process. I confirm our attachment to civil peace and respect for popular legitimacy. I also confirm the rejection of a fundamentalist republic and at the same time the rejection of a police state. I believe in political solutions to get the country out of predicaments. These solutions presume respect for public liberties and personal liberties. These solutions require democratic legitimacy. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Political Parties React to Resignation

FFS Official on FIS Election Victory

LD1001224492 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Leader of the Socialist Forces Front [FFS] Ait Ahmed today ruled out the possibility of the situation in Algeria erupting if the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] won the legislative elections.

Mr. Ait Ahmed said in a statement to the Paris newspaper AL-DAWLIYAH that Algeria will not be another Yugoslavia. At the same time, he pointed out that any FIS success in the elections will hamper the building of the greater Arab Maghreb.

FFS Official Fears 'Death of Democracy'

LD1201094992 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 0900 GMT 12 Dec 92

[Text] The same worry, the same surprise was expressed by the second largest party, the Socialist Forces Front, FFS, led by Ait Ahmed. The FFS won 25 seats in the first round of elections. FSS National Secretary (Walid Bouaziz) thinks that the resignation of Chadli Bendjedid has administered a blow to the democratic process:

[(Bouaziz)] This announcement surprised us. In a way we were expecting it because of the various rumors which have been circulating for a few days on the possible resignation of the president. This resignation might now throw the country into an infernal cycle, that

is the death of democracy. Considering the worries over the future, we wonder what the reaction of the other political forces is, particularly the FIS.

We thought that following the results of the first round, the situation was not all lost, that there was a possibility for the continuation of the democratic process. With this sudden decision which we could not imagine, we do not know what will happen tomorrow. They tell us that presidential elections will be held in 45 days, but the problem is still there. Will they really be held? We still haven't heard the Army's reaction. Will it remain neutral at this stage? We don't know, but we wonder.

Al-Nahdah Warns Against Provocations

LD1201151992 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] Here is the reaction of an official of the Al-Nahdah movement to the resignation of the president:

[Begin unidentified official recording] I hope that the National People's Army and the provisional president of the Algerian Republic and the government will rise to the level of full, true responsibility in protecting individuals' basic rights and the protection of society. I also hope that the Algerian people will understand the reason for the resignation and will rise to the level of vigilance and caution.

Finally, I hope that the supporters of the Islamic program will understand the nature and gravity of the situation and thus exert their efforts to thwart the opportunity of those who want bloody clashes and confrontations in which the winners and the losers will be identical.

For this reason, I call upon everyone to maintain calm and reason and to avoid responding to provocations. God's peace and mercy be upon you. [end recording]

Islamic Society Movement Comments

LD1201153492 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Statement by unidentified Islamic Society Movement, Hamas, spokesman—live or recorded]

[Text] What we are primarily concerned with now in Algeria is that this resignation may probably—I say probably—have come at any time. But Algeria cannot build itself without the coming together of all efforts. All efforts must cooperate to resolve the crisis in accordance with the people's will and in accordance with the precepts for protecting the democratic path along which the country has moved in order not to lose pluralism and not to lose those freedoms that the people acquired after long and continuous sufferings and struggles, and in order to get out of the bottleneck that could probably become narrower if the present chairman of the Constitution Council, who is the president of the Republic, would say: I am not up to it, and then step aside.

As for the aftermath, it means that Algeria will enter a severe constitutional crisis. We fear, God forbid, the country entering into some conflicts or some operations that would blow away security, unity, and the Constitution, and these would also blow away stability. We want our country to remain safe—we have learned from Algerian history. Algerians have experiences and problems, but they always climbed out of the problems with their heads held high. We must also get Algeria out with its head held high and leave the bottleneck that is becoming more serious each day.

Algerian Movement Leader Comments

LD1201003192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] After the announcement of President Chadli Bendjedid's rsignation, the radio station tried to monitor reaction from the parties but has only been able to get the reaction of Kasdi Merbah, chairman of the Algerian Movement for Justice and Democracy.

[Begin Merbah recording] In fact, this is an initial reaction. We say that the announcement of the resignation came very late. Chadli Bendjedid's resignation should have come earlier, immediately after October 1988. However, he used all means to stay in power. Contrary to what he actually said, that in 1977 [as heard] he did not intend to accept office... [sentence incomplete as heard] Once he did, he completely declined to concede his seat.

You know our stand in the movement concerning these matters. We said, especially, that the bankrupt cannot manage the bankruptcy for which, as far as our country is concerned, Chadli Bendjedid is solely responsible. Hence, we were among the first to demand early presidential elections and the resignation of the president so that elections could take place. We have seen how history or circumstances have proven us right because we have seen how President Bendjedid was in fact forced to resign under difficult circumstances. We say that there should have been a new transitional period directed, perhaps, by a council. Within this new transitional period, early presidential elections should have taken place. [end recording]

Solidarity Party Leader Comments

LD1201023392 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0000 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] Following the resignation, the national radio station recorded the reaction of a number political personalities. The following is Mr. Rabah Bencherif, leader of the National Party for Solidarity and Development:

[Begin Bencherif recording] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Prayers and peace be upon the noblest of messengers. The problem is a very difficult one. Algeria is facing a historic stage. I have always asserted in my statements that had the Constitution been respected by all parties and by all bodies we would not

have reached this crisis. However, I believe in the ingenuity of the Algerian people. I believe in the ingenuity of the Algerian institutions. I believe in the ingenuity and the democratic character of the National People's Army. I therefore call upon all parties and institutions to respect the Constitution even if everybody is not happy about it and even if such a Constitution does not meet the desires and the ideologies of everyone. However, it has one character and it has one credit: It is there. It is better to proceed from something that exists than to proceed from nothing.

Thus, in my capacity as an Algerian citizen and as a nationalist, I believe that all Algerians love their country at this difficult stage. At this moment we call upon the people to be calm. We call upon the state's institutions to be calm. We call upon the parties to be calm. We should act with firmness. Algeria had its greatest historical moment: its independence. Algeria had been able to defeat the biggest alliance: NATO.

Thus, Algeria's men and institutions should know that there is still something good about it. Algeria needs all its sons and Algeria needs all its resources. We should stand like one man and one stand. Algeria should be above parties. Algeria should be above partisanship. Algeria should be above democracy. Algeria should always be remembered as Algeria. [begins crying] We hope that nothing will happen in Algeria because everyone of us wants to build it and we all love it. Everyone of us loves it in his own way, however.

Brother Algerians, the situation is difficult and the choice is difficult. Algeria is the country of everyone of us. We all love Algeria. No drop of blood should be spilled in our country. We should not allow the police to intimidate us. We should remember the sons of the martyrs who died in 1954 [during the war of independence], of those who died in October [1988], and of those who died in June [1990]. The wound has yet to heal.

We call upon the Algerian people to disregard partisanship and stand like one man in order that Algeria may live longer. God's peace be upon you. [end recording]

Boumedienist Party Leader Comments

LD1201031292 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0200 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Excerpts] In this news summary we are going to relay further reactions given to the national radio station by political personalities following the resignation of the president of the Republic. The following is a statement made by Mr. Mohamed Saadi, leader of the Boumedienist Islamic Rally:

[Begin Saadi recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Peace and prayers be upon his noblest messengers. Before anything else, one should regret such tragic events which have led the Algerian people to a dark tunnel, i.e. the resignation of Mr. Chadli Bendjedid, president of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria. [passage omitted]

However, we would like to say here—and this should not be taken as vexation against the brother president of the Republic—that the resignation of the Republic's president was not a surprise to us as a party because we knew, according to the thinking of late President Houari Boumedienne, that the Algerian people would only believe in a person who could lead it like a knight and not in someone who tries to satisfy it with the gains of liberalism. And this is the end of the latter.

We hope from the bottom of our hearts that our National People's Army—we have understood from the statement of the head of government that Algeria at this moment is under the state of emergency—its officers, its NCO's [noncommissioned officers], and privates react to the event like honest citizens. Every citizen should be considered loyal to this country until the contrary is proven.

Once more we regret that the president of the Republic has abandoned his people and the Algerian nation at this stage. We consider his resignation a knockout blow to national unity. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Martyrs' Sons Committee Comments

LD1201034192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0300 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] The national radio station a while ago received a statement from the Martyrs' Sons Committee for National Unity calling upon all martyrs' sons and the rest of nationalist forces who believe in the greatness of the revolution of 1 November [1954—the war for independence from France] to stand in one rank like an impregnable fortress against destructive ambitions aimed at dividing the people and breaking national unity and to face up to all attempts aimed at taking the country into an ominous adventure.

Egypt

Musa Interprets Meaning of 'Occupied Territories'

NC1201162392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1503 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] Cairo, 12 Jan (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that the phrase "occupied territories" mentioned in the recent UN Security Council resolution condemning Israel's deportation of Palestinians refers to all the lands occupied in 1967. He said Egypt maintains its stand demanding Israel's withdrawal from all these lands, including east Jerusalem.

He said any other interpretation is inconsistent with UN Security Council Resolution 242, which stipulates that it is impermissible to seize land by force, as well as with the official UN interpretation of that resolution, that any change in borders, particularly in connection with the West Bank and Gaza, should not be the result of an

invasion. In other words, Musa said, Israel has no right whatsoever to any of the lands it occupied in 1967.

Papers View Talks, UNSC Resolution

NC1201215892 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0616 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Excerpts] Cairo, 12 Jan (MENA)—Cairo dailies comment today on the new round of Arab-Israeli talks in Washington, which were postponed for about a week because of the Israeli decision to expel 12 Palestinian citizens from their homeland.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says that the Israeli decision was designed to ruin the talks, not merely obstruct them, but the unanimous UN Security Council resolution condemning the expulsion thwarted Israeli designs and opened up a new opportunity for resuming the negotiations.

The paper adds that Israel hastened to place another obstacle in the way of the new round of talks by attacking targets near Beirut, killing or wounding 25 Lebanese and Palestinian citizens. The paper points out that the deportation order against the Palestinians and the attack on Lebanese territory demonstrate Israel's intentions and its attempt to obstruct and destroy the talks.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says although the Arabs understand these Israeli maneuvers and know how to handle them, sometimes with firmness and at other times with flexibility, diplomatic patience has limits. This places a burden on the two countries sponsoring the talks, particularly the United States, which must ensure that the talks achieve rapid progress without Israeli maneuvers and suspicious acts. [passage omitted]

AL-AHRAM focuses on the Security Council resolution condemning Israel's decision to deport 12 Palestinians from the occupied territories, noting that this was a rare time when the United States voted against Israel. The paper notes that Washington previously opposed any resolution condemning Israel under the pretext that strong resolutions hindered peace rather than serving it.

AL-AHRAM explains that the resolution emphasized the need to implement the Geneva Convention on all Palestinian territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem. It notes that this designation is daring and serious and can be used as a basis in future negotiations over Jerusalem. The paper adds that the U.S. representative, who voted for the resolution, tried to get around this point by declaring that the resolution's designation of these territories as Palestinian does not imply a recognition of Palestinian sovereignty over them, which is a matter left for negotiations. AL-AHRAM says this U.S. explanation is feeble and procedural. It notes that the unanimous approval of the Security Council resolution and the clarity of its wording eliminate any ambiguity on this point.

Minister on Preventing Foreign 'Infiltration'

NC1301075592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2110 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] Cairo, 12 Jan (MENA)—Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd- al-Halim Musa has affirmed that the Interior Ministry is committed to bolstering the march of democracy and applying human rights. He pointed out that the top priority in the security field is to combat terrorism and drugs.

In the statement he delivered this evening before the National Defense and Security Committee of the People's Assembly under the chairmanship of Mr. Kamal Henry Abadir, the interior minister said that the commitment to bolster the march of democracy does not hamper the immediate confrontation of any attempts to break the law or violate security measures.

We will not hesitate in using all the legal measures to keep control of law and order, he added. He pointed out that the security apparatus is in a state of constant alert to protect the country and that it is taking the necessary measures to prevent the infiltration of aggressive elements from abroad.

The interior minister affirmed that the security apparatus will continue its campaign to end the problem of drugs and addiction. He said that anyone who comes close to this field will not be allowed to go free.

Reportage on Algerian Presidential Resignation

'Constant Contacts' Maintained

NC1201171892 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1640 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] Algiers, 12 Jan (MENA)—MENA learned from Egyptian diplomatic sources in the Algerian capital this afternoon that a message has been delivered to Foreign Minister Lakhdar Brahimi from Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

The sources note that the message deals with the current situation in Algeria. They assert that the two countries are maintaining constant contacts and consultations.

Musa Hopes for 'Stability and Peace'

NC1201114592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1111 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] Cairo, 12 Jan (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today said that Egypt is constantly watching the developments in Algeria. Algeria, he said, is a sisterly Arab country. We are interested in what happens there and wish its people prosperity and stability.

Minister Musa said that that the developments in Algeria are very important and we are following them closely. We hope that sisterly Algeria will achieve its goals of stability and peace.

The foreign minister said that he hopes that what is going on in Algeria would benefit its stability and protect its interests.

The foreign minister made the above remarks in answer to a question on the developments of the situation in Algeria.

Envoy to Algeria Comments

NC1201110292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1025 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] Algiers, 12 Jan (MENA)—Egyptian Ambassador to Algeria Ibrahim Yusri has asserted that the Egyptian leadership and people hope that fraternal Algeria will surmount the circumstances through which it is passing.

In a statement to the MENA correspondent in Algiers today, Yusri said that the Algerian Constitutional Council, the only important constitutional institution still operating in the country, is now considering two issues: first, whether it is possible to proceed with the second round of legislative elections or to cancel them; and second, carrying out measures pertaining to the election of a new president.

The Egyptian ambassador said that Algeria is currently calm and the Army, gendarmerie, and security forces are currently maintaining order in the country.

He pointed out that matters are being handled in a constitutional manner and that Abdelmalek Benhabyles, chairman of the Constitutional Council, has taken over as interim head of state, replacing the resigning president Chadli Bendjedid.

AL-JUMHURIYAH Editorial Cited

NC1301071792 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0607 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Cairo, 13 Jan (MENA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper asserts that the timing of the surprise resignation of Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid will have far-reaching effects in Algeria and on its Maghreb, Arab, Islamic, and international relations. In its editorial today, AL-JUMHURIYAH said that these effects and repercussions cannot be monitored or determined now, because the issue is still hot and various aspects have not yet been revealed, particularly the nature of the resignation, whether it was a personal decision or a result of pressure, the Army's role in what is going on, and its link with the second round of legislative elections scheduled for Thursday.

AL-JUMHURIYAH states that despite the fact that the Algerian developments are primarily a domestic issue, countries cannot live in isolation in this age. They influence and are influenced by what takes place around them. The paper expressed confidence in the experience of the Algerian people, who offered 1 million martyrs, staged a 10-year revolution, and struggled for one and a quarter centuries with the slogan "Islam is my religion, Arabic is my language, Algeria is my homeland." Under this slogan, Algeria achieved many glorious and heroic deeds. The paper said that all Arab hearts pray to God to help Algeria overcome these circumstances.

AL-AHRAM Examines FIS Triumph in Algeria

NC0801093092 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 30 Dec 91 p 7

[Editorial: "Algeria at a Crossroads"]

[Text] The first round of elections in Algeria has revealed a considerable advance by the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] ahead of all the liberal, secular, and Berber partisan forces in the country. At the same time, it has shown the eclipse in political stature of the ruling National Liberation Front [FLN], but the Socialist Front had a better showing compared to the FLN and the other powers competing for the Berber and tribal votes. The elections also showed the marginal role played by the small liberal parties and the independent elements backed by the ruling party, Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali, and the Army.

The FIS triumph and the moderates' weakness, as represented by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], reveal the ability of the transitional FIS leadership to overcome its divisions and achieve unity. These also show its exploitation of the political and social anger of the young urban sector, which forms the front's main stronghold and accounts for approximately 75 percent of the population, which is suffering from poverty, inflation, and high unemployment. In addition, these demonstrate the erosion in political support and backing for the FLN, as a result of its failure to come up with a national goal that goes beyond the historic goal of legitimate independence and the establishment of a nationalist state that goes back to the time of President Boumedienne. These also show the FLN's inability to restructure its organizations and mobilize its cadres to absorb the contradictions and changes spurred by Algeria's problems and various conflicts.

Algeria is facing a new dilemma. The internal situation remains hazy, considering the position of the Army and the presidency and whether they will tolerate Islamic control or a theocracy. The answers that Algeria provides in the second round of voting will influence the future of Algeria's multiparty experiment and its political, cultural, and social progress. They will also redraw the political map of the Arab Maghreb and redefine interaction north and south of the Mediterranean at a time when international and regional changes are rapid, intense, and ambiguous.

Diplomatic Ties With Estonia Established 2 Jan

NC0301164792 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1050 GMT 3 Jan 92

[Text] Cairo, 3 Jan (MENA)—The Arab Republic of Egypt and the Republic of Estonia have agreed to establish diplomatic relations to consolidate their mutual friendship and goodwill.

Estonian Foreign Minister Lennart Meri and Egyptian Ambassador to Finland Hasan al-'Ujayzi signed the documents establishing diplomatic ties between the two countries at the Estonian Embassy in Helsinki at 1930 last night.

Estonia is one of the three Baltic republics which gained official independence from the former Soviet Union on 6 September 1991.

Libya

Nuclear Scientist Recruitment Report Denied

LD1001162792 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1400 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Tripoli, 10 Jan (JANA)—The American ASSOCIATED PRESS has cited an official of the Khrushchev Institute for Nuclear Energy as claiming that a Libyan contacted two scientists of the institute with the idea of their working in the Great Jamahiriyah. The JANA international affairs editor has denied the ASSOCIATED PRESS allegations and described them as devoid of any truth. He emphasized that the Great Jamahiriyah has no interest whatsoever in such subjects, and has indeed on many occasions stressed its call for the elimination of all weapons of mass destruction and a ban on their manufacture, stockpiling, and use. The editor pointed out that the ASSOCIATED PRESS report is no more than a new attempt to entangle the name of the Great Jamahiriyah in su h matters, which it rejects and on which it has a clear stance.

Minister al-Muntasir Holds News Conference

LD1001205492 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1819 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Excerpts] Vienna, 10 Jan (KUNA)—Mr. 'Umar al-Muntasir, the envoy of Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and minister of economy and planning, confirmed today that the relations between his country and the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states are good and firm in various fields.

At a news conference he held here today, he praised the attitude of the GCC states toward the charges leveled against Libya in connection with the blowing up of the American airliner over Lockerbie. The Libyan envoy mentioned in particular the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates.

Mr. al-Muntasir said that Libya's stand toward the invasion of Kuwait is well known. It was clear and acceptable to the brother Kuwaitis also.

He explained that Libya is not isolated at the Arab or international level. Indeed, its relations are excellent with Egypt, the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU], Sudan, and the GCC.

In this connection, he pointed to the unanimous decision by the Arab League to stand alongside Libya on the question of the charges of Libyan involvement in the terrorist Lockerbie incident because the Arab states know that Libya has no connection with the incident.

Answering a question by KUNA of whether Libya agreed to the two Libyans in the incident being tried in an Arab state, he pointed out that this matter is "legal in the first place." However, he affirmed that Libya has authorized the Arab League secretary general to take whatever action he deems necessary to ensure a legal solution to the problem in accordance with international laws and in cooperation with the United Nations or any other neutral international quarter.

The Libyan envoy reiterated to Austria, Hungary, and the Scandinavian countries Libya's readiness to enter into dialogue with the United States to "solve all the problems between the two countries—if there are any problems" in accordance with the provisions of the UN Charter on solving disputes between states. Mr. al-Muntasir said that his country told the United States through its Arab and non-Arab friends about Libya's readiness for discussion and dialogue. "However, the American side rejected this proposal."

The Libyan envoy pointed out that at the political level, "because the motives of the campaign and the charges against Libya are primarily political," his country had attended, through the person of the AMU secretary general, the Madrid conference on peace in the Middle East. He stressed that Libya still believes that the current Arab-Israeli negotiations would not lead to the desired just and lasting solution, but he went on to say "however, if such a solution is reached, this will be the affair of the Palestinians and the Arab countries involved in the negotiations." [passage omitted].

Al-Muntasir renewed Libya's rejection of handing over the two accused Libyan citizens to American or British justice, because "no Libyan law, like the laws of any state, allows the extradition of Libyan citizens for trial in other states." He renewed Libya's readiness to try the accused Libyans before any neutral international body, and to punish them should they be convicted legally. He made it clear that he had sensed in his talks with senior Hungarian and Austrian officials, whose countries are now members of the UN Security Council, an understanding of the Libyan stance, and that the file on this problem Libya handed over would be taken into consideration, after being studied, in the stances of the two countries, and with regard to the resolutions to be issued in this respect, according to the assurances of officials in Budapest and Vienna.

Mr. al-Muntasir said that American and British officials announced after the Lockerbie incident in 1988 that Libya had nothing to do with the incident, and that the accusing fingers were pointed then at other parties. But for political reasons, which are only known to the United States, American and British officials have now gone back to accuse Libya again of carrying out the incident.

He also highlighted the contradiction in the stance of the two countries toward the framework in which this case should be dealt. He pointed out that high-ranking officials in London and Washington were calling, until last December, for the need to try the two accused before American or British courts, and for the noninternationalization of the problem; whereas the United States is now calling for submitting the case before the UN Security Council, and calling for its internationalization.

He affirmed that Libya rejects this internationalization because the issue is not within the competence of the Security Council, but that the two accused Libyans must be tried before Libyan courts or any neutral international judicial party.

The Libyan envoy accused the United States of wanting to obtain cover from the Security Council for carrying out a military attack against Libya, which is not unlikely because the economic boycott is already being imposed against Libya. He said that the United States not only renewed it at the beginning of this year, but strengthened it as well by forbidding the international economic and financial organizations and institutions to deal with Libya in dollars.

He said that this measure is in contradiction with the free trade policy in the world, in addition to the fact that it causes extensive damage to several states that have strong economic relations with Libya, including American oil companies and others that deal, through their European branches, with Libya in the oil and industrial sector.

The Libyan envoy also disputed reports that Libya has sought to buy nuclear technology from the republics of the former Soviet Union. He pointed out that "all Soviet files are now open to the United States, and Washington is in the best position to know that Libya does not have the human or financial capabilities for producing even part of an atomic bomb."

In conclusion, he reiterated that his country cannot for certain repel a probable U.S. attack, "but it is within our right to inform international public opinion and all countries of the reality of the situation."

Mr. al-Muntasir attributed the U.S. attitude toward his country to "false information that made the U.S. Administration perceive that Libya constitutes a danger to the world, and is a barrier to U.S. interests in the region," which is a misconception, as he said.

The Libyan envoy arrived here yesterday from Budapest to brief the Austrian Government on the stance of his country on the accusations leveled at it about Lockerbie. He met President Kurt Waldheim, Chancellor Franz Vranitzky, and Foreign Minister Alois Mock. Mr. al-Muntasir also delivered letters in this respect from President [title as received] al-Qadhdhafi to the Austrian and Hungarian leaders. He will continue his journey to Scandinavia as part of his European tour to explain his country's point of view on the problem of Lockerbie.

JANA Editor on Aid to Western Investigators

LD1201183392 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1750 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] Tripoli, 12 Jan (JANA)—Commenting on the statements made by the brother secretary of the People's Committee for Agrarian Reform and Land Reclamation in Amman and in which he said that the Great Jamahiriyah was prepared to offer every facility to Western judges and investigators regarding the two accidents [Pan Am and UTA bombings], JANA's local affairs editor said: The Great Jamahiriyah has stressed and is stressing again its position about these two accidents and its permanent readiness to offer all the necessary facilities so that the truth about this matter can be discovered.

Al-Qadhdhafi Speaks With Bendjedid on Telephone

LD1101234792 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2315 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution has had a telephone conversation with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid.

Algerian Masses Urged to Take Power, Weapons

LD1201225792 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] The interactions resulting from the power struggle in Algeria have led to serious negative repercussions which have affected aspects of political, economic, and social life in the country. This in turn has resulted in the resignation of the Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid last night.

Algeria has recently, or at least for the past three years, gone through a situation of instability as a result of a heated conflict between nearly 60 political parties vying for power under thousands of slogans in which each party derides the programs and slogans of the others. This power struggle has paralyzed all aspects of economic activity and caused disruptions in production sites and services. It has also led to the intervention of the Army and the deployment of its armored vehicles in the streets of the Algerian capital.

There is no doubt that the only way out for any people who live in the whirlpool of such a conflict is for the people to take over power, resources, and weapons in accordance with the predictions made by the theory of the masses, whereby the causes of conflict are removed when the popular masses are in possession of power, resources, and weapons. It will then be impossible for anyone to exploit power, resources, or weapons in order to impose a specific vision, idea, or ideology in contrast with the decisions these masses might take at their people's congresses, which are the only method for direct people's democracy.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives 'Arafat in Tripoli

LD1001181192 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] The brother president leader Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine, met today in Tripoli with brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

During the meeting, views were exchanged on the current situation, the political movements in the region, and emphasis was placed on the importance of Arab coordination for the sake of confronting the challenges that are aimed at the Arab nation, in particular the threats directed at sisterly Libya.

The two sides affirmed the need to support and intensify the blessed intifadah inside the occupied territory, and its continued confrontation with the occupying authorities.

Besides, the brother president leader Abu-'Ammar had received brother Abu Zayd Durda, Secretary of the General People's Committee in the Great Jamahiriyah, and brother 'Abd al-Majid al-Qu'ud, secretary of the General People's Committee for Agrarian Reform and Land Reclamation, and a number of Libyan officials.

Tunisia

Goverment Expresses 'Appreciation' to Bendjedid

LD1201143792 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] An official source at the Tunisian Foreign Ministry stated that the Tunisian Government, which is following with great interest the situation in fraternal Algeria, would like to express its appreciation for all the efforts made by President Bendjedid to bolster Tunisian-Algerian relations and to participate in building the Arab Maghreb Union.

The source reaffirmed that Tunisia, proceeding from the strong fraternal and neighborly ties between the two countries, would like to express its total solidarity with the fraternal Algerian people and its best wishes for this people's success in overcoming the challenges it is facing under these circumstances in order to preserve its safety and realize its aspirations in an atmosphere of concord and amity, and in a manner that guarantees the continuation of the building of the Arab Maghreb Union.

Libya's Jallud Says U.S. Waging 'Unjust War'

LD1001170692 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1500 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Report on news conference by Libyan Staff Major 'Abd-al-Salam Ahmad Jallud with unidentified journalists in Tunis on 9 January; no quotation marks as received]

[Text] Tunis, 10 Jan (JANA)—Libya's Staff Major 'Abd-al-Salam Ahmad Jallud began his news conference by saying that Libya is now being subjected to an unjust campaign and that this is not new as the military aggression, economic boycott, threat of aggression, psychological war, and tarnishing of Libya's image come together.

He said that the world order has now collapsed and pointed out that it cannot be a single power. He also said: The law is now unfortunately America's and not the United Nations', and East Europe has now been liberated from the Soviet Union.

We also wish that the Western states would also liberate themselves from America's domination because America stands by the side of any unjust stance. European-Arab relations will not be corrected as long as Europe does not rid itself from the hegemony of America, because the latter wages an unjust war against the Arab nation.

He affirmed: We were surprised that America accused Libya, and we were surprised by the threats through the media and rules of threats and boycotts over its allegations concerning the two incidents of the U.S. and French aircraft.

He added: The most basic rule of law says that the accused is innocent until proven guilty, and they started to issue the ruling and crammed information and political statements into a legal operation. They are violating their constitutions and the most basic rules of international law, for they sent us accusations instead of investigations, and any accusation should be preceded by an investigation.

He said that Libya had entrusted two judges of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to carry out an investigation, and when it was informed of the charge sheet, it asked the British and U.S. judicial authorities for the investigation file, which they refused to provide, thereby indicating that there was no investigation and that the charge was political. He said that we have responded to all that is required by international law and have asked them to send investigators, and that Libya respects international law, the proof of which is that it had referred its disputes with other states to the ICJ.

America is the one who rejected the implementation of international law. Thus it is the one which rebelled against international law. He said we challenge them to release the results of the investigation, and that when they embroiled themselves in the legal issue, they failed and tried to politicize the matter and refer it to the Security Council. He said that the Security Council is now facing a big challenge, as we have cooperated in full and provided all that is required by international and procedural law. He said that the Security Council is not a specialist on legal matters and that we expect it, along with international organizations and establishments, to confront this serious violation [kharq] of the United Nations. We also expect the Security Council to refer to its charter, declare that the matter was beyond its com-

petence, and adjourn. He said that the injustice practiced by America, together with the Western states, against the Arab and Islamic nation, and picking Libya out in this, is the beginning of the end of American encroachment.

Yesterday they talked about Syria and also about Algeria, and they want to take us on one by one, and this encroachment will lead to a strong reaction from the Arab masses. He said that this injustice, subjugation, and humilation of the Arabs, the violation of their sanctities, and their hatred is but a Christian fanatical crusade, and that this will lead to extremism, because when a nation is subjugated it falls back on its fundamentals, and they are responsible for this. He said that Libya is being punished for its pan-Arab and Islamic stand, as they had committed an act of aggression against us in 1986 using as a pretext Berlin (La Belle discotheque incident), and then Germany announced that Libya was innocent.

Thanks Ben Ali for Lockerbie Efforts

LD1101063792 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0115 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] Staff Major 'Abd-al-Salam Ahmad Jallud has praised the efforts being made by Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali in order to reach a solution to the crisis that was created by the United States and Britain concerning the Great Jamahiriyah over the Pan Am airliner incident.

Maj. Jallud, who was speaking to the press during his visit to Tunisia and his talks with President Ben Ali, said: We have found brother President Ben Ali to be very interested in solving the crisis between Libya and some of the Western states. Maj. Jallud reaffirmed that the crisis, which has been created by the United States and Britain, concerning Libya, has provided the Arab Maghreb an opportunity in which it has proved its cohesion in confronting the challenges targeting it.

Kuwait

Prime Minister Discusses Security, Iraqi Plans

LD1301110592 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0804 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 13 Jan, (KUNA)—Heir Apparent and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah stressed that the issue of the security of Kuwait is among the top priorities. There will not be any dialogue or indulgence in this field. He stressed that the treatment of internal matters should take place in a familial and brotherly atmosphere, because we "are not used to the ways of tyranny and terrorism, as they are contrary to our Arab and Islamic traditions."

Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah said in an interview to AL-WATAN published today that Iraq is still thinking about and endeavoring to build its army to invade Kuwait once more. He stressed the necessity of facing up to these evil intentions with the cohesion of the internal front.

His Highness stressed "that these local issues should not distract us from pursuing the Iraqi regime, which is still thinking about aggression and destabilization of our country." He pointed out that Kuwait's fate is to be "in the neighborhood of a treacherous regime, whether we like it or not." [passage omitted]

The heir apparent and prime minister said that we won the battle but not the war, and that there is a difference between the two. We did not win the war because the Iraqi regime is thinking day and night of how to build its armed forces again. It is endeavoring to possess sophisticated arms, which goes to show that it is thinking of repeating its aggression, and that it is playing for time. He pointed out the necessity of facing up to these evil intentions with the cohesion of the internal front "because our force lies in the unity of our stands and ranks. We must be extremely vigilant, especially because we signed a security agreement with the United States, and we will sign other agreements with Britain and then with France, in addition to the Damascus declaration."

The heir apparent and prime minister said that some Kuwaitis do not perceive any more what the priorities are—are they local, Gulf, or Arabic? He pointed out that, for him, the most important of the priorities are the cohesion of the Kuwaiti people, pursuing the enemy's treacherous movements, and the need for local matters not to distract us from following the intentions of this regime.

He added: "We are all citizens, and our concerns are national interests, safeguarding the achievements, and leading the Kuwaiti ship to a safe land." He emphasized that "in Kuwait we are not used to the methods of violence and terrorism, because they are in conflict with our Arab and Islamic customs, traditions, and morality."

He pointed out that the scales must be corrected through the application of the law, explaining that this takes place in all the countries of the world, because the responsibility for security falls on the security officials and citizens, because "security is for all." [passage omitted]

Concerning Kuwait's relations with Iran, Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah said that Iran is a neighboring country which took a good stance regarding the unjust Iraqi aggression. It also had a good role in international circles. He pointed to the existence of a desire to develop these relations for the benefit and good of both countries on the basis of noninterference in internal affairs.

Information Minister Orders End to Censorship

LD1201145292 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1212 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] Kuwait, 13 Jan—Kuwaiti Information Minister Dr. Badr Jasim al-Ya'qub today issued an order abolishing prepublication censorship of all periodicals.

The order states that after reviewing Press and Publications Law No. 3 of 1961, as amended by the amir's decree No. 73 of 1986, and after reviewing ministerial decree No. 248 of 1986, which imposed prepublication censorship on all periodicals, it is hereby decided to abolish ministerial decree No. 248 of 1986, which provided for the censoring of periodicals prior to their publication.

The order also entrusts the under secretary of the Ministry of Information with implementing the order from the date of its issuance.

Minister: Financial Commitments To Be Honored

LD1001124292 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1110 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 10 Jan (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Finance Minister Nasir 'Abdallah al-Rudan has confirmed that Kuwait will honor its financial commitments to all countries with the exception of those that sided with the Iraqi aggression.

In an interview with the SAWT AL-'ARAB newspaper published today, he said: "Kuwait will uphold economic agreements, financial commitments, and development programs with the countries that supported Kuwait's right, but it has different views toward the countries that sided with the Iraqi aggression."

He stated: "All development programs are proceeding according to plan and Kuwait's efforts to emerge from the crisis will not affect its financial commitments to the countries that supported Kuwait's right." [passage omitted]

Saddam Said Planning Terrorist Attacks in U.S.

LD1201145792 Berlin ADN in German 1440 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] Hamburg (ADN)—According to BILD, Iraqi dictator Saddam Husayn is planning terrorist attacks in the states that fought in the Gulf war against Iraq to mark the first anniversary of the "Desert Strom" operation. According to a BILD report in Monday's edition, Middle Eastern Secret services expect bomb attacks in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Egypt, as well as Britain, France, and the United States.

Palestinian Issue Viewed at 'Aziz-Baker Talks

JN1201073192 Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Dear brothers: The Iraqi newspapers have, over the past two days, been publishing the minutes of the meeting that was held between the Iraqi foreign minister and the U.S. secretary of state in Geneva on 9 January 1991. This meeting was held approximately one week before the start of the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist aggression against Iraq.

He who follows the details of these lengthy talks will find that the Palestine question was the basic pivot of these talks. Despite the fact that the meeting was held in a last ditch effort to forestall a Gulf explosion, the talks mostly and largely revolved around the Palestine question, the struggle being waged by the valiant Palestinian people, and the Zionist tyrannical rule in the occupied territories, as well as the glaring, wrongful, and illogical U.S. bias in favor of the Zionist enemy.

Tariq 'Aziz, the then Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, kept reminding the U.S. secretary of his country's hostile stands against our Arab people in Palestine, Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, Egypt, and Libya thanks to the Americans' reckless and blind bias toward the Zionists.

As for the U.S. secretary, he evaded these open and direct accusations. Sometimes, he declined comment on these charges. At other times, he put the blame on the Arabs, because, as he claims, they posed threats to the Zionist entity.

Under pressure of the Iraqi arguments advanced, Baker admitted that he is biased, and that the Zionists were the first party to fire the first shot in the 1967 war. However, he declined to condemn them, because they, as he said, were threatened by the Arabs. Not only this, the U.S. secretary also refused to accept a linkage between the Gulf crisis and the Palestine question without giving any logical or acceptable reasons, even though international resolutions were passed on the Palestine question 23 years ago—resolutions that have thus far remained unimplemented.

This is a manifestation of the blind U.S. imperialist arrogance, and of open malice toward our glorious nation. Besides, the desire to (?address warnings) to the nation, to exploit it, and to dominate it and its wealth was manifestly clear in the remarks made by the U.S. secretary during the talks. Thus, this meeting failed. A U.S. anti-Iraq war ensued, targeting Iraq's scientific, military, economic, and cultural installations. However, the bright fact remains as clear as the sun; namely, that the Palestine question was always in the heart and mind of the Iraqi negotiator even in the most critical circumstances. Just as the Palestine question was the main preoccupation of the Iraqi negotiator in those critical circumstances, defending the Zionists, protecting them, and justifying their crimes was the preoccupation of the U.S. negotiator. Zionism, to the White House, remains the honest dog tasked with guarding and securing U.S. interests. We would like to put these facts, along with the meeting's minutes, before the Washington negotiators so that they can learn more about the U.S. position, and know that the Palestine question will remain the central issue in Iraq's national and pan-Arab thinking.

Vienna Talks on Oil Export Resolutions Continue

Al-Anbari—Atmosphere 'Trustworthy,' 'Candid'

JN1001123492 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1137 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Dr. 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, Iraq's permanent UN representative and head of the Iraqi delegation to the ongoing talks with the United Nations on the resumption of Iraqi oil exports, has declared that an agreement on some points concerning exports has been reached. He said the discussion of other points in the agenda has been postponed until tonight's session.

In a statement to an INA correspondent in Geneva [as heard], Dr. al-Anbari said that the main points of the discussion, especially the role of the Central Bank of Iraq and the oil export operations, have been postponed so that a final decision regarding them can be discussed in today's session. Meanwhile, he said, a formula for discussing some pending matters between the two parties has been reached. He added that everything that has been achieved so far is incomplete, and that the Friday session will give a clearer picture of the situation.

Earlier, in a press statement following the end of the fourth round of talks, Dr. al-Anbari indicated that Iraq's position in this regard is clear: Iraq should be given full freedom to export its oil and to import commodities for peaceful purposes in order to rebuild its economy and infrastructure. He said Iraq should also be able to increase the quantities it is willing to pump in order to meet the requirements of reconstruction.

Concerning UN Security Council Resolutions 706 and 712, the head of the Iraqi delegation to the talks affirmed that Iraq is a sovereign country, and that it is eager to resume its oil exports as soon as possible and rebuild itself through the revenues it can obtain from the oil sales.

Dr. al-Anbari described the atmosphere in which the talks were held as trustworthy and that the talks themselves were useful. He was convinced that this is a very important matter because, so far, the United Nations has not consulted with Iraq before issuing its resolutions, a matter which created difficulties concerning the implementation of some of these resolutions, which were theoretical rather than practical and applicable. He explained that the United Nations and Iraq held candid contacts with an open mind, something that will help overcome the difficulties that faced Iraq and the United Nations in the past.

Meanwhile, Dr. al-Anbari stressed Iraq's stand that there should be no specific ceiling for its oil exports and sales. He was convinced that there is no need for any form of international supervision, considering that there are known bases and regulations concerning the marketing of oil throughout the world.

For his part, Kofi Annan, assistant UN secretary general for planning, budgetary, and financial affairs and head of the UN delegation to the talks, described that the atmosphere of the talks and very good, constructive, and positive.

Talks End After 'Progress'

JN1001212192 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] In-depth talks between Iraq and the United Nations were concluded in Vienna today. The talks concerned details related to the resumption of Iraqi oil exports and have achieved progress on certain points. Agreement was reached to resume discussion of the other points during another round of talks.

No official statement has been issued on the outcome of the five rounds of talks during the three-day session. Both sides, however, agreed to hold another round in Vienna to resolve the remaining issues. The date for this round will be set at a later time.

The IRAQI NEWS AGENCY has learned that members of the Iraqi and UN delegations spent all day today preparing the final report on the talks, which was later signed by the heads of the two delegations: Dr. 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, Iraq's permanent envoy to the United Nations, and Kofi Annan, UN assistant secretary general for planning, budget, and finance affairs. The report will be presented to the UN secretary general, who, in turn, will use it as a basis for a report he will submit to the UN Security Council.

Al-Anbari: Full Agreement With UN Needed

JN1101205592 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Excerpt] Dr. 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, head of the Iraqi delegation to the talks with the United Nations on the resumption of Iraqi oil exports, has announced that Iraq and the United Nations have reached agreement on some points. However, he noted that a comprehensive agreement is needed before oil exports are resumed.

Al-Anbari told an INA correspondent that the agreement covers important points, but some other important points need further discussion. He added: Exports cannot be resumed before reaching a full agreement on issues related to the export process. The agreement itself, furthermore, needs the ratification of the Iraqi Government. [passage omitted]

Ambassador to UN Discusses Oil Exports, Gulf War

AU1201161892 Vienna DIE PRESSE in German 11 Jan 92 p 4

[Andreas Schwarz report: "Solving Conflicts Peacefully—This Applies to Us As Well"]

[Text] Vienna—Iraq is willing to sell oil on the conditions stipulated by the United Nations, using the export revenue to pay reparations once the technical obstacles resulting "from ignorance" mentioned in the UN resolutions are removed. This was stated by the Iraqi ambassador to the United Nations in New York, 'Abd al-Amir al-Anbari in an interview with DIE PRESSE on Friday [10 January].

Thus, Baghdad has ended its opposition to UN Resolution 706, which allows Iraq to export $1.6 billion in oil on the condition that revenues are spent on humanitarian aid in the country and that 30 percent goes to a UN reparation fund. "We never rejected the resolution altogether," claimed the ambassador, who became known worldwide as an advocate of Iraqi obstinance during the Gulf war.

Al-Anbari discussed technical issues (export via means other than the pipeline through Turkey, deletion of impracticable monitoring regulations, etc.) in Vienna with a UN team headed by Annan, the deputy UN secretary general responsible for financial issues, during the past few days. As a result of the constructive talks, he was confident that agreement will finally be achieved during another meeting in Vienna.

As a matter of fact, the United Nations is contradicting itself when demanding compensation payments after the lifting of sanctions while the sanctions are still in force, al-Anbari pointed out. However, Iraq is basically ready to pay, even if the sums are still to be discussed.

Al-Anbari claimed that there is no longer any need for the sanctions because all conditions have been fulfilled, particularly those concerning the scrapping of weapons of mass destruction (the scrapping naturally takes some time). "We have been under siege for one and one-half years. The world should stop treating us like a refugee camp," al-Anbari stressed. The ambassador called for a massive increase in production quotas during the meeting that came about at UN behest. Before the war, 98 percent of all export revenues resulted from the sale of oil.

The situation in Iraq itself—the UN ambassador came directly from Baghdad to Vienna—is tough. "We cannot export anything. It is true that practically all goods are available on private markets, but the poor and the middle class cannot afford to buy the goods." Bread, which cost the equivalent of one schilling before the war, now costs 50 times as much. It does not help much to rebuild the destroyed infrastructure, such as municipal water systems, if inflation explodes because of insufficient income and trade, al-Anbari emphasized.

Does this situation pose a threat for Saddam Husayn? "If such a situation lasts a long time, it is a threat for every government," the diplomat stated, but added that this will take some time. The only alternative is a civil war, he claimed. Only Saddam Husayn can run the country in such a situation. Rumors about coup attempts and mass executions are completely unfounded.

Was it a mistake to invade Kuwait on 2 August 1990? The UN ambassador first gave the usual reply: "It would have been possible to solve everything in a peaceful way. Iraq wanted to prevent the use of force. It did not want a war, but an Arab solution. This did not work, however, because the United States wanted to completely exclude Iraq from international relations." Would Baghdad invade Kuwait again if it could turn back the wheel of history? "I hope that the lesson that Iraq and other countries learned from the Gulf crisis is that all conflicts should be solved through peaceful means. I hope that all countries, including my own, have learned this lesson." In this connection he mentioned Qatar and Bahrain, which have taken their dispute over two islands to court.

The so-called new world order proclaimed after the Gulf war is unacceptable for al-Anbari because it is based on the precondition that all states will follow the unacceptable leadership of the United States. Referring to the Middle East peace conference, the ambassador stated that it is not a "viable process. Just look what Israel is doing in the occupied territories and how it deports Palestinians."

Al-Anbari is not worried about the arms buildup in Iran because he hopes "that Iran, which wanted to export its Islamic revolution, has also learned its lesson from eight years of war."

Saddam Husayn Awards Medals to Officials

JN1101170192 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1504 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has said: In the end of the 1970's, the evil enemies tried to ride the Khomeynite wave in Iran and take advantage of the concealed designs and hatreds harbored by the pillars of that wave to direct it against Iraq. They thought that they could achieve their designs against our Iraq and its deep-rooted people and revolution. The steadfastness of the Iraqis in the face of the Iranian onslaught and their triumph over it in the Arabs' second al-Qadisiyah have created a great amount of desperation for the major enemy powers. They saw that Iraq has achieved a clear victory against that barbaric wave, which they themselves were ignoring. They also saw that the political, economic, military, social, and cultural structure built by the Iraqis under their revolution is invulnerable to any treachery and aggression by two or three states, regardless of their size.

Therefore, they had no option but to exercise direct aggression. To that end, they massed over 30 states and mobilized armies from these states equipped with the most modern weapons. They also employed billions in oil money, which the traitors of the nation were abusing, and all means of information and propaganda. When the crucial battle took place, God once again granted victory to the Iraqis because they were right and their enemies were wrong. At the same time, the Iraqis were able to crush the gangs of treason and treachery who infiltrated our eastern border and the people of sin and error—the traitors inside—who followed them. On the rock of Iraqi steadfastness, the waves of aggression were crushed. Things were settled in favor of the people of Iraq so that they might enjoy freedom and dignity under the course and ideology in which they believe.

Leader President Saddam Husayn said: The Iraqis will be as big in the material sense of the word as they are now in the spiritual sense. The enemies will not be able to mass against them as much as they did in the Mother of Battles. Even if the enemies did so, victory will, God willing, be for the Iraqis.

These statements came out today when Leader President Saddam Husayn granted valor medals and the High Merit Medal to a number of comrade members of the Ba'th Party Regional Command, comrade members of the Ba'th Party Military Bureau, the chief of the Presidential Office, a number of ministers, the president's secretary, officials at the rank of minister, the head of the special security organ, the senior under secretary at the Military Industrialization Authority, the president of the Iraqi National Olympic Committee, a number of governors, a number of senior state officials, and a number of the leader president's escorts.

These badges were granted by the president to express his and the great Iraqi people's appreciation for the struggle [jihad] of these comrades and officials in the crucial battles—the Mother of Battles—and the superb heroism they displayed in defending the homeland's soil and the people's dignity and the objectives of their giant revolution in the face of aggressive troops or in the chapter of treason and treachery in our major battle.

Following is the text of the decrees:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

Presidential decree.

In appreciation of the struggle [jihad] of Comrade Muhammad Zimam 'Abd-al-Razzaq and the superb heroism he displayed in protecting the nation's honor, pride, and dignity in the Mother of Battles, including the chapter

of treason and treachery, and in defense of great Iraq; and in accordance with Clause 26 of the amended Medals and Badges Law No. 95 of 1982, we decree the following:

Comrade Muhammad Zimam 'Abd-al-Razzaq, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command, shall be granted two medals of valor.

Competent ministers shall implement the decree.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the republic

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

Presidential decree.

In appreciation of the struggle of Comrade Khadr 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Duri and the superb heroism he displayed in protecting the nation's honor, pride, and dignity in the Mother of Battles, including the chapter of treason and treachery, and in defense of great Iraq; and in accordance with Clause 26 of the amended Medals and Badges Law No. 95 of 1982, we decree the following:

Comrade Khadr 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Duri, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command, shall be granted three medals of valor.

Competent ministers shall implement the decree.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the republic

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

Presidential decree.

In appreciation of the struggle of Major General 'Abd-al-Rahman Ahmad al-Duri and the superb heroism he displayed in protecting the nation's honor, pride, and dignity in the Mother of Battles, including the chapter of treason and treachery, and in defense of great Iraq; and in accordance with Clause 26 of the amended Medals and Badges Law No. 95 of 1982, we decree the following:

Maj. Gen. 'Abd-al-Rahman Ahmad al-Duri, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command, shall be granted three medals of valor.

Competent ministers shall implement the decree.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the republic

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

Presidential decree.

In appreciation of the jihad role of, and the superb heroism displayed by the following in protecting the nation's honor, pride, and dignity in the Mother of Battles, including the chapter of treason and treachery, and in defense of great Iraq; and in accordance with Clause 26 of the amended Medals and Badges Law No. 95 of 1982, we decree the following:

The following shall be granted one medal of valor:

1. Staff Major General Sa'dun 'Alwan al-Muslih.
2. Staff Air Force Major General 'Abd-al-Jabbar al-Sudani.
3. Brigadier General Rahim Bayragh Majhul.
4. Comrade Muhammad Salih al-'Azzawi.

Competent ministers shall implement the decree.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the republic

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

Presidential decree.

In appreciation of the jihad role of, and the superb heroism displayed by the following in protecting the nation's honor, pride, and dignity in the Mother of Battles, including the chapter of treason and treachery, and in defense of great Iraq; and in accordance with Clause 26 of the amended Medals and Badges Law No. 95 of 1982, we decree the following:

I. The following shall be granted four medals of valor:
1. Sab'awi Ibrahim al-Hasan [Saddam's maternal brother], director of Public Security.
2. Brigadier General Nasir Fakhir 'Alwan.
3. Colonel Rashid Ahmad Sadkhan

II. Colonel Khalid Muhammad Latif shall be granted three medals of valor.

III. Maj. Gen. Mas'ud Salih Bandar shall be granted two medals of valor.

IV. The following officers shall be granted one medal of valor each:
1. Maj. Gen. Akram Ra'uf Bashir.
2. Maj. Gen. Hamid Qasim al-Bahadli.
3. Brig. Gen. Hamid (Zibar Kay).

Competent ministers shall implement the decree.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the republic

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

Presidential decree.

In appreciation of the jihad role of, and the superb heroism displayed by the following in protecting the nation's honor, pride, and dignity in the Mother of Battles, including the chapter of treason and treachery, and in defense of the great Iraq; and in accordance with Clause 26 of the amended Medals and Badges Law No. 95 of 1982, we decree the following:

Maj. Gen. Khalid Kafi Fulayyih and Brig. Gen. Budaywi Hasan Salih shall each be granted two medals of valor.

Competent ministers shall implement the decree.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the republic

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

Presidential decree.

In appreciation of the stance made by Staff Air Force Maj. Gen. Tahir Salih 'Ali in the Mother of Battles, including the confrontation of the chapter of the treason and treachery, and in accordance with Revolution Command Council [RCC] Decision No. 407 of 17 November 1991, we decree the following:

Staff Air Force Maj. Gen. Tahir Salih 'Ali shall be granted the Medal of High Merit.

Competent ministers shall implement the decree.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the republic

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

Presidential decree.

In appreciation of the struggle of Hatim Hamdan al-'Azzawi and the superb heroism he displayed in protecting the nation's honor, pride, and glory in the Mother of Battles, including the chapter of treason and treachery, and in defense of great Iraq; and in accordance with Clause 26 of the amended Medals and Badges Law No. 95 of 1982, we decree the following:

Hatim Hamdan al-'Azzawi, chief of the Presidential Office, shall be granted three medals of valor.

Competent ministers shall implement the decree.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the republic

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

Presidential decree.

In appreciation of the sincere efforts made by Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih and his dedication to his duties at the most critical moments and circumstances passed by our dear country during the major battle in the Mother of Battles and in the face of the chapter of treason and treachery; and in accordance with Clause 26 of the amended Medals and Badges Law No. 95 of 1982, we decree the following:

Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih shall be granted two medals of valor.

Competent ministers shall implement the decree.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the republic

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

Presidential decree.

In appreciation of the heroism displayed by Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq Hammadi in defending the nation's honor, pride, and glory in the Mother of Battles; and in accordance with Clause 26 of the amended Medals and Badges Law No. 95 of 1982, we decree the following:

Oil Minister Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq Hammadi shall be granted two medals of valor.

Competent ministers shall implement the decree.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the republic

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

Presidential decree.

In appreciation of the heroism displayed by Lieutenant General 'Amir Hammudi Hasan in defending the nation's honor, pride, and glory in the Mother of Battles; and in accordance with Clause 26 of the amended Medals and Badges Law No. 95 of 1982, we decree the following:

Lt. Gen. 'Amir Hammudi Hasan, minister of industry and minerals, shall be granted two medals of valor.

Competent ministers shall implement the decree.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the republic

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

Presidential decree.

In appreciation of the struggle of Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan [Saddam's maternal brother] and the superb heroism he displayed in protecting the nation's honor, pride, and glory in the Mother of Battles, including the chapter of treason and treachery, and in defense of great Iraq; and in accordance with Clause 26 of the amended Medals and Badges Law No. 95 of 1982, we decree the following:

Interior Minister Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan shall be granted three medals of valor.

Competent ministers shall implement the decree.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the republic

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

Presidential decree.

In appreciation of the struggle of Col. 'Abd Hamid Mahmud and the superb heroism he displayed in protecting the nation's honor, pride, and glory in the Mother of Battles, including the chapter of treason and treachery, and in defense of great Iraq; and in accordance with Clause 26 of the amended Medals and Badges Law No. 95 of 1982, we decree the following:

Col. 'Abd Hamid Mahmud, the secretary of the republic's president, shall be granted three medals of valor.

Competent ministers shall implement the decree.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the republic

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

Presidential decree.

In appreciation of the heroism displayed by Humam 'Abd-al-Khaliq 'Abd-al-Ghafur and Ja'far Diya' Ja'far, in protecting the nation's honor, pride, and glory in the Mother of Battles, and in defense of great Iraq; and in accordance with Clause 26 of the amended Medals and Badges Law No. 95 of 1982, we decree the following:

Humam 'Abd-al-Khaliq 'Abd-al-Ghafur, head of the Atomic Energy Authority, and Ja'far Diya' Ja'far, under secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Minerals [mentioned in a 14 October 1991 INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE article as being the head of the Iraqi nuclear program], shall each be granted one medal of valor.

Competent ministers shall implement the decree.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the republic

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

Presidential decree.

In appreciation of the struggle of [Saddam's second son] Qusayy Saddam Husayn and the superb heroism he displayed in protecting the nation's honor, pride, and glory in the Mother of Battles, including the chapter of treason and treachery, and in defense of great Iraq; and in accordance with Clause 26 of the amended Medals and Badges Law No. 95 of 1982, we decree the following:

Qusayy Saddam Husayn, chief of the Special Security Organ [jihaz al-amn al-khas], shall be granted three medals of valor.

Competent ministers shall implement the decree.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the republic

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

Presidential decree.

In appreciation of the heroism displayed by Lt. Gen. Engineer 'Amir Muhammad Rashid in defending the nation's honor, pride, and glory in the Mother of Battles; and in accordance with Clause 26 of the amended Medals and Badges Law No. 95 of 1982, we decree the following:

Lt. Gen. Eng. 'Amir Muhammad Rashid, senior under secretary of the Military Industrialization Authority, shall be granted two medals of valor.

Competent ministers shall implement the decree.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the republic

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

Presidential decree.

In appreciation of the struggle of 'Udayy Saddam Husayn and the superb heroism he displayed in protecting the nation's honor, pride, and glory in the Mother of Battles, including the chapter of treason and treachery, and in defense of great Iraq; and in accordance with Clause 26 of the amended Medals and Badges Law No. 95 of 1982, we decree the following:

'Udayy Saddam Husayn, president of Iraqi National Olympic Committee, shall be granted three medals of valor.

Competent ministers shall implement the decree.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the republic

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

Presidential decree.

In appreciation of the jihad role of, and the superb heroism displayed by the following in protecting the nation's honor, pride, and glory in the Mother of Battles, including the chapter of treason and treachery, and in defense of great Iraq; and in accordance with Clause 26 of the amended Medals and Badges Law No. 95 of 1982, we decree the following:

1. Maysan Governor 'Abdallah Talab 'Ajzan shall be granted four medals of valor.
2. The following shall be granted three medals of valor each: Al-Najaf Governor Karim Hasan Rida; Diyala Governor Tu'mah Du'ayyif Qitan; Wasit Governor Qa'id Husayn al-'Awwadi; Al-Ta'mim Governor Yasir Hasan Sultan; 'Aziz Salih al-Numan, former Dhi Qar governor [previously appointed governor of "Kuwait Governorate" following the 2 August invasion].

Competent ministers shall implement the decree.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the republic

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

Presidential decree.

In appreciation of the struggle of 'Abd-al-Jabbar Muhsin Salman and the superb heroism he displayed in protecting the nation's honor, pride, and glory in the Mother of Battles, including the chapter of treason and treachery, and in defense of great Iraq; and in accordance with Clause 26 of the amended Medals and Badges Law No. 95 of 1982, we decree the following:

'Abd-al-Jabbar Muhsin Salman, media and press secretary to the President of the Republic, shall be granted three medals of valor.

Competent ministers shall implement the decree.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the republic

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

Presidential decree.

In appreciation of the jihad role and the superb heroism displayed by the following in protecting the nation's honor, pride, and glory in the Mother of Battles, including the chapter of treason and treachery, and in defense of great Iraq; and in accordance with Clause 26 of the amended Medals and Badges Law No. 95 of 1982, we decree the following:

1. The following officers shall be granted three medals of valor each:

Air Force Brig. Gen. Arshad Yasin Rashid [senior aide-de-camp to President Saddam Husayn]; Lieutenant Colonel Shabib Sulayman Majid; Major Saddam Kamil Hasan.

2. Major (?Rakan Ruzuq) Sulayman shall be granted four medals of valor.

Competent ministers shall implement the decree.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the republic

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

Presidential decree.

In appreciation of the struggle of Col. 'Abd Hasan al-Majid [Saddam's paternal cousin] and the superb heroism he displayed in protecting the nation's honor, pride, and glory in the Mother of Battles, including the chapter of treason and treachery, and in defense of great Iraq; and in accordance with Clause 26 of the amended Medals and Badges Law No. 95 of 1982, we decree the following:

Col. 'Abd Hasan al-Majid, assistant director of the Intelligence Service, shall be granted three medals of valor.

Competent ministers shall implement the decree.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the republic

The medal-awarding ceremony was attended by 'Izzat Ibrahim, Revolution Command Council [RCC] vice chairman; Staff General [rank as heard] 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, RCC member and defense minister; and Comrades Kamil Yasin and Sa'di Mahdi Salih, members of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command.

Al-Zubaydi: 'Aggression' 'Utterly Failed'

JN1101192392 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1430 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Jan (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and vice president, today opened the Museum of Steadfastness and Challenge, which embodies the process of reconstruction following the sinful 30-state aggression against Iraq.

Prime Minister Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi delivered a speech on this occasion, stressing that the U.S.-led aggressors' wicked objectives of crushing the will of the Iraqi people and destroying Iraq's infrastructure have utterly failed thanks to the steadfastness of the Iraqis in the face of direct and indirect acts of aggression.

He said the Iraqis stood fast during direct military aggression and tore apart the chapter of treason and treachery. In the process of reconstruction, he added, the Iraqis challenged the forces of evil and aggression and by their miraculous achievements, they foiled the objectives of the aggressors and frustrated their malicious hopes.

Al-Zubaydi stressed that through today's opening of the Museum of Steadfastness and Challenge, the Iraqis are giving shining proof of the sound prediction of their leader and of his high expectations about their unlimited ability and creative achievements. He said the museum, with its scale models and documents about the march of reconstruction, will continue to bear historical witness to the strong will of the great people and to the grandeur of the historic leadership of glorious leader Saddam Husayn.

The prime minister said that when any objective and detached person sees the models on display covering the fields of industry, housing, construction, oil, agriculture, transport, communications, information, culture, and all other walks of life, and when he realizes the record time of accomplishment against the extent of destruction of the facilities and services during both chapters of the aggression, he will find that he is on the frontline of a historic miracle that befits only the great people of Iraq. No nation in the 20th century, which witnessed two world wars, has been able to achieve the upsurge, construction, and development that the Iraqis achieved while still under economic blockade, he said.

Al-Zubaydi said that the wicked aggressors under the leadership of the United States wanted to crush the will of the people and destroy the infrastructure of the country. He referred to the threats with which the U.S. secretary of state expressed his rancor against Iraq when he said that they would take Iraq back to the preindustrial age if it failed to yield to the wishes of the colonialist and covetous states and back down on its free national and pan-Arab options.

The prime minister explained that after the world saw and heard about the achievements of the Iraqis in the field of construction, and given the firm resolve of the Iraqi people and their historic leadership, which rejects hegemony, blackmail, and plunder of wealth, the aggressors are now trying to hurt Iraq and prevent it from completing the march of its upsurge and construction. They are trying new methods such as threats, defamation, blockade, and conspiracy. Several old colonialist powers and regimes considered to be Arabs are also trying to take part in hatching new acts of aggression, in which the Iranian regime is also involved.

Al-Zubaydi said the people of Iraq have experienced many such tactics since the glorious 17-30 July Revolution and nipped them in the bud, and will handle them similarly in the future to set a standard of awareness, knowledge, patience, strength, and wisdom. It is indeed the living example of a nation whose civilization goes back six thousand years.

The prime minister concluded by saying: Future generations of the Arab nation and other nations will pause in awe before the experience of the Iraqi generation of the Mother of Battles and the battle of challenge and steadfastness that came about in the process of rehabilitation and construction. Good and decent people around the world will realize that the "no" said by the Iraqis was the true gateway to man's freedom and his redemption from slavery and tyranny and the right way to his revival and advancement.

Hamid Yusuf Hammadi, minister of culture and information, made a speech in which he asserted that the Museum of Steadfastness and Challenge testifies to the extent of the devastation suffered by Iraq's modern

installations and the admirable ability of the Iraqis to repair the destruction caused by the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist aggression.

He said the pictures, scale models, and tableaux at the museum truly reflect the perseverance of the Iraqis and their efforts described by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn as the counterattack mounted by the elite Iraqis from the Ministries of Industry and Minerals, Oil, Transport and Communications, Housing and Reconstruction, and other sectors.

Taha Yasin Ramadan, representing His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, and Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi then toured the museum's wings displaying a large collection of pictures, scale models, and tableaux representing the reconstruction of great Iraq and the elimination of the consequences of the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist aggression with Iraqi hands.

Also on display in the museum were film footage and videotapes of part of the rehabilitation drive to repair the installations and services that were damaged or destroyed.

The museum's opening ceremony was attended by Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz, a number of members of the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, cabinet ministers, and heads of Arab and foreign diplomatic missions in Baghdad.

Saddam: Patriotism Behind Reconstruction Effort

JN1201133592 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn today received Housing and Reconstruction Minister Mahmud Dhiyab al-Ahmad and Sa'di Ja'far al-Khayyat, president of al-Mu'tasim Contracting Company.

The leader president, may God protect him, paid tribute to the spirit of constructive work marking Iraqis at this phase in our country's history, as Iraqis are now racing against time in all domains of the reconstruction endeavor. They are, the leader president said, opening successive chapters of achievement in record time, demonstrating an inexhaustible determination acknowledged by friend and foe alike.

The leader president, may God protect him, gave them directives stressing the importance of accounting for the factors which created this mobilization in the Iraqi citizens' mental capacity, and also in the physical contributions made by Iraqis. Foremost among these factors is the patriotism displayed in the face of foreign challenges, the leader president noted. This patriotism must be maintained, not only to promote the reconstruction endeavor, but also to launch the phase of building new edifices to benefit our great people—new edifices that would serve as pillars of their independence, and a legacy to be boasted by future generations, the president concluded.

Presidential Office Chief Hatim Hamdan al-'Azzawi attended the meeting.

Writer on Continuing 'Nightmare' for Iraqis

JN0801082292 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 8 Jan 92 p 5

[By staff writer Maryam Shahin "recently returned from her fifth visit to Iraq"]

[Text] Baghdad—The mood in the Iraqi capital was somber as the country entered 1992. Iraqis awaited the fulfillment of their wishes, but felt that there was little chance that any of their wishes would become reality. The nightmare of the past months continues.

The Iraqis watched in 1991 as several members of the Arab and Islamic nation, the ummah, joined foreign armies to bomb Iraq in order to restore the Kuwaiti rulers.

The ferociousness with which the allies attacked left no doubt in the minds of the Iraqis that the war was not to "liberate Kuwait," fight Saddam Husayn Husayn or restore human rights and dignity to the peoples of the Middle East. Most Iraqis still cannot explain why the war took place.

Iraqis who were opposed to their regime were strongly encouraged by the U.S. and its allies, to revolt only to be stabbed in the back. The Americans retreated and left the Iraqi rebels [to] meet their fate at the hands of the Republican Guards. As the condition of the mosques of 'Ali, Hasan and Husayn in Karbala' and al-Najjaf will still testify, "betrayal" is not forgiven in Iraq. About 40,000 Iraqi soldiers are still in the Saudi desert and would rather stay where they are than go home.

As the anniversary of the beginning of war nears, it becomes clear that for Iraqis, supportive of or opposed to the government, friends hardly exist.

The international community has condemned them and sentenced them without trial. Let them suffer by bombs and sanctions, the sentence seems to say; death by starvation or the bullet.

As the central government regained control after the war and the uprisings, the bureaucratic workings of the country resumed.

The government has lessened the burden on its shoulders by actively encouraging privatisation of small industries, the service sector, much of the agricultural sector, the construction companies, the import-export companies and is looking for buyers for the national air carrier, Iraqi Airways.

Those with money can and will buy. But who has it? The money that is being circulated is often U.S. dollars and belong to the privileged class. The privileged, unlike the once large Iraqi middle class amassed hard currency. Thus the 1,000 per cent black market valued Iraqi dinar did not affect them.

The middle class, however, remains impovershed and incapable of doing anything but barely surviving. Physicians, engineers and university professors can barely get food on the table.

The government recently tried to lessen the heavy economic woes being felt by some two million public sector employees (including army personnel), by increasing salaries by 20 per cent. But that leaves the vast majority of Iraqis in the same predicament.

Two different rationing systems, one available to all Iraqis and one just for government employees, have made survival possible for the population.

The government, however, will continue to find it difficult to supply adequate foodstuff to the people as long as Iraqi assets remain frozen. While private entrepreneurs are actively bringing in foodstuff at exhorbitant prices, the government is running out of cash and must rely on its foreign assets which are for the most part still frozen. That is an added burden on Iraq, which before Aug. 2, 1992, used to import 70 per cent of its food needs.

Only two of 30 countries where $4 billion in Iraqi assets are frozen, have released some Iraqi funds.

Nutritional experts say almost one child in three is malnourished in Iraq today. Efforts by the government to buy food and medicine in accordance with U.N. Resolution 706, have failed so far.

Letters of credit have been issued and sent to pharmaceutical companies and food merchants all over the world, Iraqi officials say. Yet, only Switzerland and Greece have agreed to unfreeze some of the Iraqi assets and allow the government to buy food and medicine.

The other countries holding Iraqi assets keep them frozen despite a U.N. agreement issued last May authorising the unfreezing of the assets for the purchase of food and medicines.

Britain promised to release $125 million of Iraqi assets in November, but so far the promise has not produced a single shipment of food or medicines.

Conditions differ somewhat in different parts of the country but no one, but the very rich, has been spared the wrath of war and destruction.

The Kurds

The fate of the 3.5 million Iraqi Kurds in the north seems sealed. "Fight and die for feudalism," seems to be the banner of their leaders Ma'sud Barzani and Jalal Talabani.

While they have been persecuted by the Arabs, Turks and the Persians, it was the the British Royal Air Force which first bombarded Kurdish villages in 1920—a footnote in history their leaders conveniently forgot when they appealed to the West for help.

However, for all the media attention given to their struggle for independence and self-determination, the West has shown itself incapable of supporting them with more than blankets and TV dinners.

The root of the Kurdish problem has been addressed by no Westerner of stature and the humanitarians of the world continue to pretend that the issue is about medicine, blankets, clean water and the Kurdish language when the call of the people is clearly for a united, independent Kurdistan.

But the people who denied the Kurds statehood in the first half of this century are unlikely to push Arabs, Turks or Iranians to grant it to them now.

In the age of new Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Eritrea, Croatia and others, statehood seems to be a problem only for Palestinians and Kurds.

The thousands of Kurdish babies, women and old people, who died in the mountains of Turkish Kurdistan last spring, were the victims of not only the Iraqi war machine but also of what seems to have been allied negligence at best and a Western Machiavellian policy at worst.

The Kurds needed to come down from their mountains to eat and find water. The Turks did not allow it. the Americans, the British and the French chose not to pressure their Turkish allies.

Today Kurdish troops control their own areas. They live in tents and border villages. Almost all the men are unemployed. Many in the past were employed by the Iraqi government and official institutions. The families attempt to survive on the produce of 30 per cent of their usual crop and U.N. handouts. The mortality rate of children is almost four times what it used to be before the sanctions and the war.

The hope of autonomy for the Kurds, as envisioned in the 1984 agreement between Saddam Husayn and Jalal Talabani, has faded. The Kurds, Saddam feels, have betrayed him when he was most vulnerable. Many Iraqis, more importantly, feel that the Kurds have betrayed Iraq, a state Kurdish leaders say they want to be part of.

Saddam was willing to sign a broad autonomy agreement with the Kurds in 1984, but Anakara made sure that it was never signed by the government of Baghdad.

Despite the official lifting of the blockade between central Iraq and the peshmerga-controlled areas, people travelling north are still stripped of all foodstuffs. Petrol prices in Peshmerga-controlled Kurdish areas are 20 times more than in the rest of Iraq.

Many Kurds insist that oil-rich Karkuk should be part of their autonomous area. Baghdad insists that it is Arab. No Iraq, Kurd or Arab, admits that Karkuk is neither Kurdish nor Arab but Turkoman.

America is busy now and so is Britain, the Kurds are no longer a fashionable issue. The Kurds, for now and the foreseeable future, must make a deal where there is one to be made—in Baghdad.

The South

Meanwhile, the Shiites in the south are even less in the limelight than the Kurds, principally because they never made it to the Western prime time popularity charts.

Between Saddam and death they chose death and died without vindication. The survivors had chosen Saddam. Unlike the case with the Kurds, most of whom receive U.N. rations, Saddam supplies the south with some commodities at affordable prices. The Baghdad government worked day and night to repair the extensive damage at the Shiite holy places.

One local security officer called it the "restoration of the southern soul."

However, the misery reigning in the south is not unusual. A woman in Baghdad said matter-of-factly that "the south has always been miserable."

The unfair distribution of wealth between north and south has plagued many if not most countries in the world. But in a country as rich as Iraq the impoverishment of the south seems particularly acute.

A 70 per cent unemployment rate, a fivefold increase in prices of foodstuffs on the open market and an average monthly salary, for those with jobs, of 200 Iraqi dinars, or $18, is hardly the stuff that the good life is made of.

A threefold increase in child mortality, the lack of most medicines and the breakdown of the water desalination system built three years ago is likely to weaken the already helpless and destitute.

Dirty water, little food and nothing to do are slowly but surely driving the south into a mass depression.

One al-Basrah psychiatrist could only say: "The story of the southern Iraqis is not an afternoon soap-opera but a real life nightmare."

Further on Increased Security in Baghdad

Checkpoints on Road to Karkuk Set Up

NC1001194692 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1420 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Out of fear of attacks by our revolutionary heroes, the 'Aflaqites are taking refuge in their dens and [words indistinct]. The Saddamist henchmen recently extended the deadline [to report for military service] they issued to their defeated troops and their followers in late December. The deadline applies to the security, intelligence, and police services as well as to other Ba'thist mercenaries.

The criminals in the service of the 'Aflaqite regime live in fear of our attacks, particularly in Baghdad. Gripped by panic, they deploy their heinous tanks on Baghdad streets and roads leading to the capital at night. It is worth noting that Saddam's private guards have established checkpoints on the main intersections leading to Karkuk. They are searching pedestrians and cars in a serious and inhumane manner.

'Shoot on Sight' Orders Issued

NC1101181592 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1422 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] Because the police are disobeying orders issued by Saddam's mercenaries, the criminal Watban Ibrahim [Iraqi interior minister] has carried out a campaign recently to reappoint officers and policemen of the Saddamite security system. The riot forces are being overhauled as well.

Criminal Watban has also issued a murderous law that the security forces should shoot on sight any citizen who breaks their unjust laws. Mercenaries of the dead and gone 'Aflaq say that any time they need a pretext to shoot someone, they will merely say that the person was participating in a riot to justify their actions.

Watban al-Tikriti is deeply involved in the issue of violating our people's rights because he has allowed his men to storm our homes and carry out terrorist search operations.

Minister Said To Predict Karkuk Uprising in Jan

NC1201180192 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] Iraqi War Minister criminal 'Ali Hasan al-Majid met with military commanders and officers and officials of the internal security forces and suppressive organs in Karkuk on 2 January. He told them that a popular uprising will take place in Karkuk in January and that they must strongly defend it and not leave their positions. He also told them that execution squads would be waiting on the Tikrit-Bayji road for deserters.

Hammudi Leaves for PLO Martyr's Rally in Tunis

JN1101210092 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1530 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Jan (INA)—Sa'd Qasim Hammudi, secretary general of the Arab Popular Forces Conference, left Baghdad today for Tunis to attend a rally the PLO is holding on the first anniversary of the martyrdom of strugglers Salah Khalaf [Abu-Iyad], Hayil 'Abd-al-Hamid [Abu-al-Hawl], and Fakhri al-'Umari [Abu-Muhammad].

Hammudi will also participate in a seminar to be held there under the slogan: Jerusalem, the key to peace. The seminar will last four days.

Member of Palestinian Talks Delegation Detained

TA1301124392 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 10 Jan 92 p 12

[Text] Jerusalem—Yesterday before dawn, the Israeli military authorities summoned Muhammad al-Hurani, from Hebron, and handed him a six-month administrative detention order.

The arrest came a few hours after the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem was informed of a Palestinian decision to add another three Palestinians to the administrative team within the Palestinian delegation to the peace conference. The three Palestinians are: Muhammad al-Hurani, Jamal al-Shubaki, and 'Arif Darwish.

Commenting on al-Hurani's arrest, Palestinian sources said: This detention falls within the context of Israel's provocative policy toward the Palestinian delegation to the peace conference and its attempts to place obstacles in the path of the talks. These sources called for al-Hurani's immediate release and for allowing him to join the delegation as soon as possible.

It is worth noting that al-Hurani has been placed under administrative detention several times during the intifadah.

Shamir—Talks Delegation To Return 15 or 16 Jan

TA1201143692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] The Israeli delegation to the Washington talks will return to Israel on Wednesday or Thursday [15 or 16 January] of this week, the prime minister announced during today's weekly cabinet meeting. It will be very difficult to hold peace talks, Shamir said, when a pretext for stopping the process surfaces on every occasion. In this context, he mentioned that the Arabs took advantage of the decision to deport Palestinian activists to delay the resumption of the negotiations.

Our political correspondent Arye Golan adds that according to the prime minister, this week's round of talks in Washington will deal with the agenda and decide on the procedures and venue for the next round. The prime minister also made it clear to Ministers Ne'eman and Ze'evi that there is no Israeli document of concessions and that the paper submitted to the Palestinian representatives contains all the agreements reached previously.

Rehav'am Ze'evi, who has threatened to withdraw from the cabinet the moment the Israeli delegation puts forth the autonomy proposal, told our correspondent that in his view, self-administration does not differ from the local concept of autonomy. Both will lead to a Palestinian state, which will in turn result in the liquidation of Israel.

Defense Minister Moshe Arens told the cabinet today that a significant decline has been registered in terrorist activity from Lebanon. Our political correspondent reports that Minister Arens disclosed that during the weekend, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] attacked a Jibril organization target in Lebanon after receiving reports that a Jibril force intended to act against Israel from the sea. The defense minister noted that several civilians living near the target were injured as a result of the IDF attack.

Minister Arens also reported a considerable rise in disturbances in Judaea and Samaria this past week, expressing his belief that this is the result of the decision to deport 12 Palestinians.

Shamir 'Optimistic' About Talks

TA1301115992 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Report by 'Idan Miller]

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir did not sound too worried this morning by the Moledet and Tehiya factions' threats to quit the coalition if the autonomy issue is raised in the peace talks. Shamir, who was the guest of honor at a ceremony inaugurating the last and newest stretch of the Ayalon Highway, sounded optimistic when he referred to the political process and the peace talks opening in Washington today.

[Begin recording] [Shamir] We have little time at our disposal in this round of talks, but if there is a serious response from our interlocutors, we may expect progress or at least the beginning of progress.

[Miller] Knesset Member Ge'ula Kohen said this morning that, in coordination with Moledet, both the Tehiya and Moledet will quit the government if the autonomy issue is raised in the negotiations. What do you say to that?

[Shamir] Well, I believe they will reconsider. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Referring to reports that the Justice Ministry is preparing plans for a constitution, Shamir said that he does know the details, but he trusts Justice Minister Dan Meridor to do a good job of it.

Levi—Palestinians Offered Camp David Autonomy

TA1201075692 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Report on interview with Israeli Foreign Minister David Levi by party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] On the eve of the third round of talks between Israel and the Arabs, Foreign Minister David Levi points out: When the procedural discussions are over, Israel will propose autonomy to the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. What kind of autonomy? The same autonomy featured in the Camp David accords.

[Begin recording] [Levi] There is a plan, and there are agreements, and they should stop using delaying tactics and get down to work.

[Deqel] You used to say that Israel is committed to the Camp David accords, which include autonomy. The question is whether, after the procedural matters you mentioned are agreed on, we will offer the same autonomy.

[Levi] Definitely. This is our position, this is our approach, and this is what the cabinet initiative and the government guidelines have confirmed. Thanks to our policy, the Camp David accords, including autonomy the way it is defined, are the solid foundation of our future course of action. [end recording]

As for the Tehiya and Moledet threats to bolt the coalition if the Arabs are offered autonomy, David Levi believes the Likud should adhere to its positions and not surrender.

[Begin recording] [Levi] The Likud does not align itself with anyone's approaches. When they joined the coalition, we gave them the possibility of voting in accordance with their conscience, but the Likud has an outlook of its own; it has commitments. Most of the government is agreed on the guidelines, which are the foundation of the political line we are trying to promote.

[Deqel] And the last question, Mr. Foreign Minister: When are you leaving for China?

[Levi] No comment. [end recording]

Foreign reports said David Levi is supposed to leave for China within 10 days.

Nisim Says No Autonomy Talks for 'Some Time'

TA1201194992 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Industry and Trade Minister Moshe Nisim was the one who gave Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir a letter from Ministers Ze'evi [Moledet] and Ne'eman [Tehiya] reminding him that if autonomy for the Palestinians is discussed tomorrow in Washington, the Moledet and Tehiya factions will leave the coalition and the government will collapse.

Nisim spoke with the right-wing ministers later and summoned them to his office for a second time this evening, perhaps on instructions from Mr. Shamir. In the meeting, Nisim claimed that it will still be some time before Israel really discusses self- government for the residents of the territories. The two right-wing ministers, especially Ze'evi, made it clear that they will not relent on this matter and will be, as they put it, a gun at the government's temple.

The Tehiya and Moledet ministers, as well as other ministers, estimate that the prime minister will do everything he can to drag the peace talks out for as long as possible before discussing substantive issues, which could force early elections.

The major problem on the agenda today is the loan guarantees for immigrant absorption; this has already been said and will probably be noted again. The United States will not issue the guarantees if it suspects that Shamir is holding up the peace talks or lending his hand to the untimely breakup of his government. [passage omitted]

Levi—'Breakthrough' in Palestinian Talks Expected

TA1301172992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] All the procedural issues have still not been overcome in the Washington talks and the meeting with the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation has still not begun. Our correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that the three delegation heads continue to negotiate in the State Department conference room. Members of the Palestinian delegation said that an arrangement is being worked out according to which the full delegations will convene for an initial discussion and then the talks will continue along two tracks.

The meeting between Israeli and Syrian representatives continue while that with the Lebanese was stopped after several minutes due to the illness of the head of the Lebanese delegation and will be resumed tomorrow.

Foreign Minister David Levi said in Lisbon that a breakthrough is due in the talks with the Palestinians in Washington within hours.

Sharon Says Armament Race 'Key' Issue for Peace

TA1101125592 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0900 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Telephone interview with Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon by 'Adi Talmor on the "In the Current Situation" program—live]

[Excerpt] [Talmor] Good day to you, Minister Ari'el Sharon. A year has elapsed since the Gulf war. Do you, Mr. Sharon, have practical proposals as to how to cope with a nuclear threat in view of the assumption that the Arabs may possess such weapons in the foreseeable future?

[Sharon] This issue should be handled within the framework of the peace process. It is not by accident that for long months I demanded that we not deal with procedural matters that are less important but rather handle the major issues. Before entering the peace process Israel had to—and still can, despite the fact that the process has already begun—demand that every country that wants to participate in this process must immediately freeze the

arms race. This requires protracted and complex negotiations and at later stages will be accompanied by reduced armaments and parity between Israel and the Arab countries in this sphere. I am pointing out that these dangers should be handled through the political process. Some try to explain to us that if peace is achieved the danger will be eliminated. This is wrong. The danger is measured not only by the Arabs' intentions—and these are surely not truly inclined toward peace—but by the Arabs' capabilities too. Therefore, the way to handle this danger is through a peace process in which the armaments issue plays a primary and key role.

[Talmor] It is against this background, if I am not mistaken, that a few weeks ago you demanded that the prime minister and ministers who conduct the negotiations resign from their positions. Do you still insist on this?

[Sharon] I believe we should rid ourselves of handling issues in such a manner. This is not a personal argument. This is an argument over the path and future of the country. Therefore, the point of resignation or no resignation is irrelevant. The matter is not personal.

What should be done today? We should use the peace process as a lever to help us overcome problems that pertain to our survival and that surface daily: namely, we should demand that the issue of the Middle East arms race be part of the peace process, the production of nonconventional arms by countries such as Iran, Iraq, Libya, Algeria, and Syria, a country which talks of this. The same naturally applies to chemical and biological weapons. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1100 GMT on 11 January reports that in another interview to David Essing, "Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon says there is so much to do these days that it would be better to hold the elections in November on schedule. Sharon addressed the Tel Aviv commercial and industrial club yesterday, and later he candidly told reporter Leah Zinder that he personally supports the electoral reform bill but had to vote against because of the decision by the Likud's Central Committee." Asked whether construction in the territories has damaged Israel's chances of receiving the aliyah guarantees, Sharon says: "No. I don't think that that is the reason for not getting the guarantees. I see it as a kind of an excuse." Also, "there is massive construction all over the country; proportionately, there are not more there [in the territories] than in other places." On the arms race in the region, Sharon says that it "is the most massive arms race that we remember in the last 40 years. I think that among all those competitors in this race, among all those who participate in this race, the main suppliers of weapons to Arab countries, are, first of all the United States, then the European community, China, North Korea, and Russia."]

Spokesman Responds to Birri Prisoner Offer

TA1301053492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] The head of the Lebanese Shiite group Amal, Nabih Birri, says he is willing to give Israel information on its missing servicemen in exchange for the release of 15 women from al-Khiyam prison in south Lebanon.

Birri, who is also minister of state, told the Voice of the People radio station in Beirut that he is ready for a prisoner exchange with Israel. Amal has said it holds the remains of two Israelis, but there has been no confirmation of the claim.

In response, Defense Ministry spokesman Dani Nave said Israel would return all the Lebanese prisoners it holds in return for its own men. Nave said we have not been the ones to prevent an exchange so far, adding that Israel is still waiting for information on Air Force navigator Ron Arad.

Ministers, Official View U.S. Loan Guarantees

Levi on 'Guarantees Trap,' Settlements

TA1001123692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Foreign Ministeq David Levi says that the true basis for peace will be purely economic, but we should nevertheless avoid the trap of guarantee, and not give up settlements since this will ultimately lead to concessions on other matters too. Minister Levi said this before participants of the senior forum for strategic- economic thinking in Tel Aviv, and our correspondent Ian Lazarovich cites his remarks.

[Begin recording] [Lazarovich] Despite disagreements among participants in this forum for strategic-economic thinking, everyone agreed on one thing: The basis for peace and power is only economic. Foreign Minister David Levi still said we must not enter the guarantees trap and give up the settlements, since this will lead to concessions on other issues too. This will weaken Israel in the negotiations, as the other side will not make any concessions and will want the United States to impose additional concessions on us.

[Levi] We must not enter a trap with a blindfold. What am I referring to? An issue which should be decided by the sides involved, an issue on which we are dependent and as a result of which we could be hurt, must not be in the hands of a third party as a mediator. This will begin with settlements and extend to other things.

[Lazarovich] Minister Levi added that only an economic interest which is commonly shared by countries can result in peace. As proof he cited the Dead Sea and Jordan Valley regions where Israel and Jordan share a common economic interest, and there are almost no hostilities between them. [end recording]

Finance Minister Views Guarantees

TA1001202892 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1807 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Interview with Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i by 'Oded Shahar at the Finance Ministry; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Shahar] Perhaps money could have been taken from the 5,000 housing units scheduled to be built in Judaea and Samaria, and from the roads the government plans to build there, and given to the welfare services?

[Moda'i] Of course. And why not take money from the defense budget, for example? Or from the police? Or from local councils or the Interior Ministry? Money can be taken from everything. The question is the government's order of priorities. As for the monies you are talking about, you must understand that those are very marginal sums.

[Shahar] The investments in Judaea and Samaria?

[Moda'i] Certainly. First of all, I should say that the sums invested are indeed larger; however, their proportion in the total development budget for all of Israel has definitely not grown. Take roads, for example. The budget for roads has been almost doubled. What is so strange about it being doubled in Judaea and Samaria? Should those areas have been discriminated against? That does not make sense. Or take the increase in the construction budget. The staggering rate of construction we have witnessed over the past two years is unprecedented in Israel's history. So why is everyone in a uproar over a proportionate rise in the rate of construction in Judaea and Samaria?

[Shahar] Mr. Minister, is it wise to invest billions in Judaea and Samaria just now, when we are seeking loan guarantees from the United States?

[Moda'i] No. The United States is not irritated by the increase in the settlement budget but by the very existence of settlement budgets, and it states so clearly all the time. This, however, is the Israeli Government's policy. The Israeli Government pursues a policy calling for the continued development of Judaea, Samaria, the Gaza Strip, the Golan Heights, Jerusalem, the Jordan Rift Valley, the Hebron Hills, and the Dan District—everything. That is the Israeli Government's policy.

[Shahar] Will the Israeli Government be prepared to follow that policy even if the U.S. President tells us that we will not get the guarantees?

[Moda'i] First of all, the answer is yes. I have already stated more than once that we will not accept any political conditions on the guarantees from the U.S. Government. I would like to stress again that we are talking about mere guarantees. It is true that the United States can turn us down, but this is only a document. This is neither a loan nor a grant. It is a mere document of generosity from the U.S. Administration, stemming from international obligations that it has never renounced.

[Shahar] Does the United States owe us the guarantees?

[Moda'i] The fact of the matter is that last January we were visited by an undersecretary of state. At the time, I presented him with Israel's needs for immigrant absorption and told him at that time that we would ask for guarantees. He did not react negatively. On the contrary, he reacted in a positive manner, but suggested that we present the request in September 1991. That is what we did. President Bush then asked us to delay submitting the request by 120 days, once again without taking a position against the request. Anyone taking a position against our request is someone who is not especially keen on the idea of any kind of immigrant absorption in the State of Israel. We, at least, must make the distinction between the two issues. Pretexts can always be found. I repeat and reiterate: The donor, even if only of guarantees, has the right either to give them or not, or to make them conditional on certain things. It is his right and privilege by any logic.

[Shahar] What will happen if we do not get the guarantees? Will there be new taxes? Will the burden on the public be increased? Will there be economic decrees?

[Moda'i] I categorically reject the word decrees because of its negative connotation. If we have to impose a burden on a public to aid immigrant absorption, I do not consider it a decree but a virtue. This is a welcome blessing, and that is how the public will react. Therefore, I do not like the word decree. As for new taxes; yes. However, there are some taxes that have a detrimental effect on economic growth and others that hurt economic growth less. I would not like to levy any additional taxes on Israel's citizens, but if it becomes necessary, then we will have to do it. [passage omitted]

Bank Governor Comments

TA1001151892 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT [MAMON supplement] in Hebrew 10 Jan 92 pp 1, 2

[Interview with Bank of Israel Governor Ya'aqov Frenkel by Sever Plotzker, Nehama Dowek, and Gid'on 'Eshet in Jerusalem "this week"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [YEDI'OT AHARONOT] Professor Frenkel, as the Bank of Israel governor and as a friend of many economic advisers of the U.S. President, how do you view our prospects of receiving the loan guarantees we have requested from the U.S. Administration?

[Frenkel] I will refer only to the economic aspect of the guarantees issue, although I know we are not living in a political vacuum. From the economic viewpoint, my position is clear: Israel must follow an economic policy

that will prevent Washington from having an economic pretext for withholding the guarantees. I stress: economic pretext.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] Was the latest budget debate at the Knesset insufficient pretext?

[Frenkel] I am indeed sorry that the Knesset has not held a serious debate on as vital an issue as the state budget, which is the main steering tool for economic policy. That fact pains me more than the last-minute haggling. I have not forgotten that the term "horse trading" was coined in connection with last-minute budget debates in great democracies, such as the United States. In those countries, however, the haggling is not as blatant as it is here.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] Does not the decision to invest millions of dollars in construction and roads in the territories constitute a distinct reason to withhold the guarantees?

[Frenkel] That is a political decision. The Israeli Government has a set of political priorities of its own, and naturally, the U.S. Government has priorities that differ from our government's. These political disagreements must be settled on the political level.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] Are you evading a direct answer?

[Frenkel] The rules of the game are very simple. As citizens, each of us has political views, but the governor of the Bank of Israel may remark only on economic issues.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] Do we have economic disagreements with them?

[Frenkel] Here the situation is easier. On the economy, we are basically in accord with the U.S. Administration. We speak the same professional language, the language of economists who believe in the Western market economy. Israel is no East Europe.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] It is not? The American press has been asserting recently that Israel is the last stronghold of socialism....

[Frenkel] The U.S. media have waged a campaign of gigantic proportions that casts doubt on the Israeli economy's resilience and character. Many of the messages of that campaign were distortions. For that reason, it is very important that, before anything else, we apprise the Americans of the Israeli economy's true picture, which is much more promising. Israel has carried out numerous bold economic reforms that bring us closer to the desired situation.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] Would you like to focus the debate over the guarantees with the Americans on economic issues?

[Frenkel] This is fundamentally an economic issue: the necessary measures to improve the functioning of the Israeli economy so as to enable it to absorb 1 million immigrants, to grow, and to pay off its debts.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] Can we offer the United States clear economic guarantees—such as the letter of commitment countries seeking financial aid give to the IMF?

[Frenkel] It would be better to give the U.S. Administration a binding letter of economic intentions. The changes we intend to implement in our economy are identical to the American ideas. As I said, we agree both on the goals and on the methods. There may perhaps be some disagreement over the speed with which to implement the reforms.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] Many ministers have been saying that we do not really need the guarantees.

[Frenkel] I do not understand the basis for such assertions. I believe the guarantees are crucial for the successful absorption of the great aliyah from the Soviet Union and for its continuation.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] What will we do if we do not get the guarantees?

[Frenkel] I would not describe the situation in terms of black and white, in the sense that we either get everything or nothing, that we get either $10 billion in loan guarantees over five years or not even one red cent. I see a variety of possibilities—from the mode in which the guarantees will be given, their rescheduling over time, and the total amount in guarantees, all the way down to a myriad of details about their implementation.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] Nevertheless, those in charge of the economy must take the worst possibility into account. What will happen then?

[Frenkel] The Israeli Government's economic policy is to a great extent based on the assumption that Israel will get $2 billion in credit guarantees from the United States and will thus be able to finance its budget deficit. The guarantees were also supposed to have a beneficial effect upon the general economic scene in Israel and to serve as an expression of the United States' confidence in our economic future, thus encouraging investments and growth. Failing to receive the guarantees will not have merely a marginal affect on the Israeli economy; it will constitute a very significant change.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] Will a failure to receive the guarantees necessitate reopening the budget?

[Frenkel] It will necessitate a reassessment of all economic policy frameworks, including the budget. I think we will have to reexamine all government expenditures and income and all the policy measures of the government and the Bank of Israel. No clause or item should be untouched. Except for the goal of immigrant absorption, nothing will remain sacred.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] You are talking about a real economic upheaval if we do not get the guarantees. Why not simply stop the breach with two or three simple measures, such as new taxes? It seems that even the finance minister raised such a possibility.

[Frenkel] That is a possible reaction, but I find it a bad one. What are we actually saying here? We are saying that there is a hole in the government's budget, so we will find alternative sources of funding. We will sew a patch over the hole. The hole, however, is so big that the entire suit must be replaced. In my opinion, not getting the guarantees will constitute a dramatic change in the most basic working assumption of our economic policy—not some minor alteration. It will be a new reality.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] Why not use our financial reserves? Both the budget and the Bank of Israel have reserves?

[Frenkel] In such a hypothetical situation I would advise the government not to seek partial solutions, such as exploiting reserves. I would recommend opening all the books and forming a comprehensive economic policy. We still want the Soviet aliyah to come, and we want to absorb it successfully. That national goal will not change, even if we do not get U.S. loan guarantees. In light of that goal, and subject to the new conditions, we will have to reorganize our entire economic policy. There must be no sacred cows.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] No sacred cows?

[Frenkel] From the moment, God forbid, that it becomes clear we are not getting the U.S. guarantees, we will have to define our economic options sharply. What is the major factor in successful immigrant absorption? The creation of productive jobs in the business sector—in other words, investments. All the rest will have to pass our national litmus test—whether each particular budgetary clause facilitates successful immigrant absorption or not. The luxury of having it both ways will be over. Investments in the infrastructure help absorption and are therefore desirable. Expenditures that contribute nothing will have to stop. We will have no choice but to effect drastic and painful budget cuts on all fronts.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] What about new taxes?

[Frenkel] Taxation discourages just what you are trying to encourage—investment and the expansion of the business sector. That is why I am against taxes.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT] What about other lines of credit instead of the U.S. guarantees?

[Frenkel] If we could go to the international credit market and borrow the amount of money we need, we would not be stressing the issue of the guarantees so much. We have reached the conclusion, however, that we have no possibility of receiving credit in foreign currency without the guarantees, even if we pay slightly higher interest. Over the next few years our problem in the international money market will not be one of price, but rather of our ability to approach that market. Our problem will be one of accessibility. Talk to the big banks, and they will tell you the same story.

Nevertheless, I would like to reiterate that we are talking about the extremely hypothetical situation in which we get absolutely nothing in loan guarantees from the United States. [passage omitted]

Purchases Proposed in Return for Loan Guarantees

TA1201082992 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Text] Israeli elements are pointing to three ostensibly unrelated processes which, in reality, are intertwined: the political process, the moves toward early elections, and the negotiations for loan guarantees. At the moment, the issue of guarantees appears the most complicated and problematic.

Jerusalem believes that the main factor preventing the granting of guarantees is the harsh economic situation in the United States. In view of President Bush's unsuccessful visit to Japan, Israel is afraid that the Americans may be unable to make foreign aid commitments in full view of their constituency at a time when the economic situation back home is so dire.

As a result, Jerusalem is proposing that, if given the guarantees, it will invest a major part of the money it obtains in American products and services. According to the plan, U.S. contractor and development services would be invited to take part in the jobs carried out here. This move is designed to convince the Americans that the U.S. economy also stands to benefit from the guarantees.

Every Israeli element reiterates that the key to the guarantee question lies fully in the hands of one man: U.S. President George Bush. Senator Phil Gramm, who is close to the President and who was in Israel last week, said President Bush is furious with Israel on the issue of settlements. In addition, Gramm stressed again that, if the guarantees are granted, they will be accompanied by rigid provisos. Therefore, Israel is readying itself for a compromise, so as to receive at least some of the guarantees.

Shamir, Ministers on Possible Early Elections

'Change' in Shamir Elections Position

TA1201053492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] Prime Minister Shamir will not be sorry if elections are held early, aides to the prime minister said. Our party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz says that this statement denotes a change in the position of the prime minister's circle.

Deputy Prime Minister David Levi is against early elections, saying that before such a proposal is raised, it should be discussed in Likud institutions. Addressing a forum of former Liberal Party members over the weekend, Minister Levi said that he is in favor of dividing the Likud Central Committee into two institutions: one of Herut and another of Liberals.

Likud and Labor Knesset members may submit a house dissolution bill this week. Sources in the Knesset Labor faction said that they do not require a new Knesset dissolution bill, because one already had been submitted by Avraham Katz-'Oz several months ago and it can be debated without delay.

In a talk with our correspondent Yo'el Nir, Labor sources noted that the internal elections in their party would not be completed before the end of April, which means at this point that general elections in May are premature.

Shamir 'Objects' to Early Elections

TA1201105292 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Report by political correspondent Arye Golan from the Prime Minister's Office—live]

[Excerpts] The government's survival is threatened by the right wing once again. In the course of this morning's cabinet meeting, Minister Rehav'am Ze'evi passed a written message to the prime minister via Minister Moshe Nisim, who also is the deputy prime minister. The message said that the prime minister should stop the autonomy negotiations in Washington or else Gandhi [Ze'evi's nickname] will quit the cabinet. The message was sharp and crystal clear. Minister Ze'evi voices similar threats every week, and last week he announced on our program that he would leave the government the moment autonomy is raised.

Both right-wing ministers—Yuval Ne'eman and Gandhi—attacked what they termed the document of surrender which the Israeli delegation handed the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. They also came out against Israel's conversing with both delegation heads—both the Jordanian, and, which is more irksome to the right wing, Palestinian Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi.

The prime minister replied that the document submitted in Washington contains nothing new. [passage omitted]

And another development: Yosi Ahime'ir, the prime minister's bureau director, came out to speak with reporters, which is unusual for him, to deliver the following statement on behalf of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir on the issue of early elections:

[Begin Ahime'ir recording] The prime minister has heard the talk about early elections, and he objects to holding them. He believes that the government should remain in office for the duration of its full term of four years, and he will do everything necessary to ensure the government's survival. [end recording]

Milo Proposes Elections in May or Jun

TA1001070392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Police Minister Roni Milo proposes holding early elections in May or June. He told our correspondent Ya'el Ayalon that he does not know whether the idea is acceptable to the prime minister, but he believes that it will eventually have Mr. Shamir's support.

On the matter of the direct election of the prime minister, Minister Milo said he does not oppose the bill in principle, but he believes it should be amended.

Ne'eman Supports Milo's Call

TA1101125292 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] Tehiya leader Yuval Ne'eman supports early elections and welcomes Minister Milo's proposal on this, as broadcast on Qol Yisra'el yesterday. Minister Ne'eman told our political correspondent that a continuation of the political process beyond the procedural stage which will end shortly requires holding elections.

Levi—Early Elections 'Undesirable'

TA1201070492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister David Levi by Shalom Qital—live]

[Text] [Qital] Good morning, Mr. Levi.

[Levi] Shalom, good morning.

[Qital] Why are you against early elections?

[Levi] Why am I against? An idea has been tossed in the air, and now everybody is supposed to agree. Early elections are neither simple nor desirable for a ruling party, which needs a full term if it is to promote the political and socioeconomic processes it had undertaken. In this context, the announcement of early elections by the ruling party is significant in a way which is undesirable and which is certain to be exploited by its opponents.

[Qital] But, like many others, you were there at the Knesset when the shameful scenes occurred, when the Likud dependence on small parties was seen by all. Is it not preferable to promote all these issues you mentioned on sounder, more solid grounds?

[Levi] Just a moment, you are confusing issues, you are linking totally unrelated matters. There have been great difficulties and unsavory phenomena, but who can guarantee that our party will not need a coalition after the next elections? These things are absolutely unrelated. A party which presents the situation as you have will be, in fact, announcing that it is confident of having such a

majority as to be the sole ruler after the elections. The political situation in Israel shows that the situation is nothing like this. What I am saying is that a government should not propose early elections as long as it has a coalition and as long as it does not face a parliamentary defeat, which is not the situation at the moment. If early elections are held as a result of force majeure, if the house votes no confidence in the government and an alternative government seems feasible—which is not the situation at the moment—then, having no choice, the ruling party does what it must to achieve a more stable situation.

[Qital] Mr. Levi, it has been said that a force majeure already has presented itself in the shape of guarantees which the U.S. Administration is going to refuse.

[Levi] You again are confusing unrelated issues. So what? Should the government then give in, stop taking care of state matters? Should it run away whenever difficulties arise? What kind of political wisdom would that be? The same goes for the peace process. We have promoted the process: Our stands have been accepted, we hold face-to-face meetings, and we should, therefore, neither despair nor give in. We have enough patience to go on, to stick to the plan and to the basic points on which the initiative had been founded in the first place. Should we now say we are giving everything up? How will it look if we run away from peace?

[Qital] Mr. Levi, you are going to Portugal today, but this is a routine trip, because people go to Europe all the time. Have you begun packing for your trip to China yet?

[Levi] Allow me to correct you again: Everyone has a different slant on things. What do you mean people travel to Europe all the time? Portugal now chairs the EC.

[Qital] I am not knocking the trip to Portugal, but China is something else.

[Levi] I did not say you are knocking it, but things should be seen in the right light. Arab countries are beleaguering the Portuguese foreign minister, who is now the chairman of the EC troika. We have a vested interest in coordinating with him on issues vital to us, and I have been invited by the Portuguese Government. Discussions on the economic moves in anticipation of the multilateral encounter in Moscow are to be held in Brussels this week. Is this a routine trip? Coordination is important.

As for Moscow, the multilateral encounter will be held there on 28 January as announced; we received confirmation of this last night.

Now, for the trip to China, I have refrained from discussing it so far. It is true that following talks and exchanges of delegations, following the two meetings I have held with the Chinese foreign minister in which informal frameworks were established both in China and here, the matter has materialized. We have exchanged messages in which we agreed to announce the date for my visit in China, where diplomatic relations, which Israel has never had and to which it always has aspired, will be established. The relevant announcements will be issued today. The Chinese deputy foreign minister, whom I received here, brought a message from my counterpart, the foreign minister, asking me to come, which I will. It has been said that this is an historic visit, and indeed this coordinated visit of a foreign minister, who has been officially invited by them so as to establish diplomatic ties, certainly is one for which we have been waiting. I believe that this is the outcome of great efforts, of a long-standing desire, and it received a push 18 months ago in the wake of intensive, coordinated, and discreet activities.

[Qital] Thank you very much, Mr. Foreign Minister, and have good trips.

[Levi] All the best and thank you.

Court—Deportees' Appeals Hearing To Be Open

TA1201122992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] The High Court of Justice has ruled that the appeal committee sessions debating the cases of the Palestinian activists slated for deportation will be held in open court. Our legal affairs correspondent Mira Amsalem reports that the High Court has thus accepted the petition submitted by the Palestinians' attorneys and the Civil Rights Association.

The court has ruled that the state attorney's arguments against the open-court sessions, which revolve mainly around the technical and security-related difficulties encountered in such sessions, do not justify inflicting such harm on the principle of public debate, which is one of the basic values of our society.

Milo—Open Hearing 'Positive'

TA1201172392 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1500 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Studio interview with Police Affairs Minister Roni Milo by Dan Margalit—live]

[Excerpts] [Margalit] Police Affairs Minister Roni Milo, good evening to you. We want to discuss your proposal for early elections but would first like to hear your reaction to the opinion expressed by jurist Moshe Hanegbi today that the ruling by the High Court of Justice on the deportees' appeals prolongs the legal proceedings, thus rendering the deportation less effective.

[Milo] I think it is positive that the hearings on the deportees' appeals against their expulsion were opened to the public and media. My justification for this approach is that the deportations should be treated as a practical, legal matter and not a punitive measure. Therefore, the publicity of the hearings is surely appropriate. As for the deportation process itself, I believe it will proceed exactly as it would have if it had not been

open to the media, since ultimately the positions and decisions are made by the nature of the issue, and publicity will not change anything.

[Margalit] On early elections now, it was announced today that the prime minister opposes early elections, but you still support holding them in May or June. Why?

[Milo] Our experience has shown that an election year has always been problematic from the viewpoint of government procedures in Israel. One should remember that of the last four rounds of elections—1977, 1981, 1984, and 1988—only in 1988 did we hold elections on time because a national unity government was in power. The other three governments fell before completing their full term in office because an election year is known to be a time of pressures, of attempts to make short-term political gains for election needs. In recent weeks we have seen what happened to the budget and other issues against the background of the elections coming up this year. I think it would be good for the country to shorten this process. Instead of waiting 10 months, until November 1992, we can wait five months, hold the elections in June at the latest, and thus limit the damage and spare the public the problems arising as a result of the election year. [passage omitted]

[Margalit] The budget has been approved already, namely, the problems with the religious and ultra-Orthodox are over. Now the right-wing parties remain. Are they the reason that you want to call early elections?

[Milo] You know that general problems are not over. We are currently engaged in a very complex peace process. It is desirable to have a broader coalition to make progress in this process. We are facing the very important challenge of absorbing a big, unprecedented aliyah, for which we need a stable government with a sound economy and the ability to solve problems such as unemployment. The country is facing very serious issues today. [passage omitted]

Court President on Administrative Detentions

TA1301100392 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 13 Jan 92 p A1

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpt] The president of the Southern Command's military court, Colonel Dr. 'Imanu'el Gross, has recently leveled harsh criticism at the use made of the administrative detention proceeding.

His remarks were made in an interview with the Army magazine BAMAHANE, but the publication of the interview was banned on the orders of Major General Ran Goren, the Personnel Branch chief; Brigadier General Ilan Tal, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman; and Maj. Gen. Ben-Tziyon Farhi, president of the Military Court of Appeals.

Gross, who is also president of the Administrative Detentions Court, says in the interview that he regards administrative detention as an exceptional step, one of the measures at the disposal of a democratic country's legal system. And yet, he adds, the intifadah "forced the IDF to resort to the wholesale use of this measure."

Col. Gross further asserts that after the uprising started, the Army resorted to administrative detentions on the assumption that the removal of provocateurs from the territories would contribute to calm. The same premise suggested that when calm was achieved, the authorities would be able to revert to normal legal proceedings—that is, decide on prosecution on the basis of police investigations.

According to this scenario, administrative detention was to be used only in cases where it was clear to the authorities that the dossier against the suspect included evidence that could incriminate and condemn him but the suspect could not be brought to trial for very definite reasons, such as jeopardizing the sources of the information. And yet, many months into the intifadah, the establishment was still not organized for the routine handling of suspects, with mass detentions still being carried out and hundreds of people still being picked up on administrative detention orders.

Gross adds that had it not been for the process of judicial audit, the situation would have been much more serious. The judicial audit revealed unduly ordered administrative detentions. He estimates that in 30 percent of the cases, the military judges upheld the appeals of detainees, ruling either that they be released completely or that their prison terms be reduced.

Gross discloses in the interview that he and other judges cautioned several times that they would not accept a situation in which administrative detentions were ordered by the Army only because of a shortage of investigative personnel. He asserts that these warnings did no good, however, and the security forces continued resorting to administrative detentions for the same reasons as before. [passage omitted]

Sharon Demands To See Note Given to Palestinians

TA1201154292 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] At today's cabinet meeting, Minister Ari'el Sharon demanded that measures be taken against the al-Hakawati Theater in East Jerusalem which, according to Sharon, serves as a center for instigation to anti-Israeli terror.

Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that Minister Sharon also demanded that Prime Minister Shamir present the new document submitted to the Palestinian delegation in Washington which, according to Sharon, has pleased the Palestinian delegation. A document submitted to Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, one of

the Fatah founders, should also be presented to members of the Jewish cabinet in Jerusalem, Sharon said.

Prime Minister Shamir responded that he does not have the document, that reference is to notes exchanged between the heads of the delegations, and that he does not believe that the cabinet needs to peruse them. I myself do not know what is written in those notes, the prime minister said.

Ministry Orders Closure of East Jerusalem Monthly

TA1001111992 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 10 Jan 92 p 2

[Text] The Interior Ministry has ordered the closure of the East Jerusalem Palestinian monthly MA'A AL-NAS. The district supervisor's letter ordering the closure offers no explanation. The monthly, which began circulating only recently, has so far published 10 issues dealing with the political situation in the territories and the Palestinian delegation's activities.

Settlers To Continue Protest; Soldiers Kill Arab

TA0901123292 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 9 Jan 92 p 7

[Report by Tzvi Zinger, David Regev, and Roni Shaqed]

[Excerpt] The Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip decided unanimously yesterday to continue protest activities by settlers. The council also decided to act to torpedo the autonomy plan, "which constitutes a danger to Israel's existence."

The council called on the government to deport the political and military leadership of the intifadah, to close what it called the PLO offices in Jerusalem, to impose the death penalty on terrorists who commit murder, and to exile the families of stone throwers to at least 60 km away from their homes. It also demanded that violent villages be denied certain rights (such as marketing agricultural produce, crossing the Jordan River bridges, as well as electricity and telephone services).

The meeting was attended by Rabbi Eli'az Melamud, a representative of the rabbinical forum of Judaea and Samaria, who claimed that the forum's activities are legal and that it does not intend to confront IDF soldiers.

Three Palestinian organizations—the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]—have called for attacks on soldiers and settlers in the territories to protest the peace talks.

In a joint statement issued yesterday, the three organizations called for a strike the day the talks begin.

An inhabitant of the village of Salfit in the Tulkarm area was killed yesterday while trying to flee after attacking a soldier. Soldiers shot and killed him. [passage omitted]

Proposed Law Termed 'Revolutionary'

TA1301092592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Excerpts] This morning's disclosure is the Basic Law: Legislation, a revolutionary law initiated and drafted by the Justice Ministry and inspired by Minister Dan Meridor, which would realign all of Israel's laws and basic laws, including the state of emergency which has been in effect since the foundation of the state. The law, which would pave the way to a constitution, has already been discussed by the Ministerial Committee on Legislation. Here is a detailed report by our legal affairs correspondent Mira Amsalem:

The Basic Law: Legislation is a revolutionary law that touches upon the very core of the powers of the Israeli Government authorities. It would cancel the state of emergency which has been in effect since the foundation of the State of Israel. A state of emergency would be declared for a definite period of time, based on specific and justified causes.

To date, the state of emergency has accorded broad powers to the executive branch—the government—but these would be reduced and curtailed. According to the new law, every three years the Knesset would meet to decide whether there is cause to declare a state of emergency. The causes, which would be stipulated by law in a closed list, would include war, natural disaster, or ecological calamity. The High Court of Justice could step in and determine whether there is justified cause to declare a state of emergency.

Speaking of the High Court of Justice, the law stipulates the establishment of a court for constitutional affairs which would be made up of nine Supreme Court justices. This point is the highlight of the Basic Law: Legislation.

Although the law is presented as one, it would realign several laws—the Basic Law: The Knesset; the Basic Law: The Judiciary; the Basic Law: Interpretation; and the Basic Law: The Government. The court for constitutional affairs would be able to repeal laws that were not passed with the required majority. Moreover, it would be able to repeal a law that contradicts the basic principles of the country, its democratic, Jewish, and egalitarian character as reflected in the Declaration of Independence, albeit not exclusively. This court would be able to repeal a law that contravenes general principles of human rights. [passage omitted]

In addition to strengthening the status of the Supreme Court, the law would regulate the Knesset's working procedures and would determine how laws must be legislated. A simple or absolute majority would not be enough to ratify or amend a basic law, which would require a special two-thirds majority in the Knesset—namely, 80 Knesset members. This change would only be enforced after five years, however, and during the interim period, an absolute majority would be required.

The new law would also expand the Knesset's authority and empower it to repeal subsidiary legislation.

French Foreign Minister Dumas Continues Visit

Dumas Denies Pro-Arab Stance

AU0901134492 Paris AFP in English 1202 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] Jerusalem, Jan 9 (AFP)—French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas on Thursday denied suggestions here that France was pursuing a biased and pro-Arab foreign policy in the Middle East.

"It's a false impression, an error," Dumas replied when told by an Israeli ournalist that Israel suspected France of favoring Arab positions.

Dumas arrived here late Wednesday to start a two-day visit, his first to Israel since 1989.

An Israeli television commentator on Wednesday said Dumas was known for his "pro-Arab views," adding that French diplomacy in the Middle East was causing "profound displeasure to Israeli leaders."

Following a two-hour meeting with Dumas, Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy said Israel and France had agreed on boosting economic, scientific and technological cooperation.

"French ministers will soon be coming to Israel to conclude such accords," Levy added.

Shamir Briefs Dumas on Peace Process

TA1001101492 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 9 Jan 92

[Communication issued by the prime minister's media adviser]

[Text] In a meeting today (Thursday), 9.1.92, with French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir extensively reviewed the peace process. Shamir noted the difficulties that stem from the Palestinian position relating to the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and Israel's determination to make every effort, despite the limitations, to enter into regular dialogue by showing patience, devotion and faith in the chances for a settlement. Shamir stressed that the Palestinians must understand that the question of the establishment of an independent Palestinian state is not a subject for discussion at all.

In relation to the multilateral talks, the Prime Minister described the immense international interest, including Japan, China, and the European Community, while there is still room for determining a program and clear guidelines that will permit effective talks.

In the Prime Minister's opinion, the multilateral talks are a good opportunity for solving regional problems, when it is clear to all the positive feed back and the positive implication of paralleled progress in the bilateral and multilateral talks.

The Prime Minister was interested in the possible regional influences of the latest developments in Algeria against the background of increasing Islamic fundamentalism, while Dumas clarified in his answer, the importance of the special relations between France and Algeria.

Regarding the bilateral relations between Israel and France, Shamir and Dumas agreed that it was possible to greatly improve cooperation both on the broader level of the European community and specifically between the two countries.

Levi Departs for Portugal 12 Jan

TA1201102492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister David Levi this morning left for Lisbon, where he will meet with the Portuguese prime minister and foreign minister. The Portuguese foreign minister is the current EEC president. [passage omitted]

Islamic Group Demands Shammas Recall, Trial

NC1301084392 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] The Islamic Group in Lebanon has demanded an immediate halt to the Washington talks and the recall of Ambassador Suhayl Shammas, head of the Lebanese delegation, to interrogate him and try him for his leniency, negligence, and weakness. They cited Shammas' statement on the recent Israeli raids on al-Na'imah, Iqlim al-Tuffah, and other regions in the south and western al-Biqa' in which he called on the Israeli enemy to stop military operations against Lebanon during the negotiations.

Hizballah Said 'Prepared' To Swap Prisoners

NC1201061192 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] Hizballah Secretary General 'Abbas al-Musawi has declared that Hizballah holds Israeli and Lahdist prisoners who were captured during military confrontations. Our prisoners, however, were seized from their homes.

In his statement, al-Musawi said: Despite this situation, we are prepared for an exchange, but we strongly insist that all the oppressed, headed by Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, be released from the Israeli enemy's prisons.

Minister Says Israel Behind Recent Bombings

PM1301143992 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 10 Jan 92 p 4

[Muhammad 'Ali al-Qulaybi report: "Lebanese Interior Minister Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Israeli Hands Behind Recent Bombings"]

[Excerpts] Tunis—Lebanese Interior Minister Staff Major General Sami al-Khatib, who represented his country recently in the meetings of the ninth session of the Arab interior ministers' council in Tunis, has said that it cannot be claimed that the security issue in Lebanon has been settled completely. But this does not necessarily mean the renewal of the war that ended in Lebanon. In this context he emphasized that all the things that prevailed in Lebanon over the past 16 years—banditry, destruction of homes, and hostage taking—have ceased.

The Lebanese interior minister, who was speaking to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, pointed out that the security disruption which occurs from time to time, including the booby-trapped car incident, was actually not expected, because we regarded booby-trapped cars as part of the war. This is why we were surprised by the first explosion at the American University. We knew what the purpose was, and we seized the culprits—which rarely happens in Lebanon or other states. Which is further proof that security is now under control to some extent and in a satisfactory way. Maj. Gen. al-Khatib noted that the second explosion, which occurred in al-Bastah and perhaps has aroused the fears of many people, was another message from the same sender. So the sender is one of those who are harmed by the progress of peace and accord in Lebanon. [passage omitted]

The Lebanese interior minister emphasized that the American University device was made by the hands of Israeli intelligence. And the preliminary analysis of the Bastah device has proved that the sender is one and the same. There are no targets to be destroyed in al-Bastah, nor are there figures to be assassinated or party centers to be devastated. There are only innocent people living in a very populous district. This is why the sender found it easy to place the booby-trapped car in that area, intending to killing the largest number of people possible and thus deluding those gullible enough to be persuaded that security is still fragile in Lebanon and that the state's control is still weak, and that therefore there should be no withdrawal from southern Lebanon, on the basis of the premise: How do you want us to withdraw from a country whose regime cannot control its capital. That is the substance of the recent explosions. [passage omitted]

And although the Lebanese interior minister in his statement acknowledged the unequal intelligence war between Israel and Lebanon, he was confident that those who defend right and territorial integrity will win.

Sami al-Khatib emphasized that Israel's aim with these explosions is to obstruct the entire process of withdrawal from the south, as well as the peace process. So Israel wants to push matters toward fragmentation, isolation, and partition, namely by thwarting the experiment of coexistence among the various groups in Lebanon.

Agreement on UNIFIL Deployment Reported

NC1301063092 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] According to press reports this morning, a final agreement has been reached between the commands of the Lebanese Army and the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] regarding the Army's deployment in 10 villages located within the operations area of the Ghanaian contingent in the Tyre district. Under this agreement, the Army's unit in Tayr Dibbah will stay. This agreement will be discussed at the next cabinet session.

PFLP-GC Radio Reports Israeli Raid

JN1001175692 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1747 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] At 1415 today, a three-plane formation of Israeli aircraft flew over Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] sites in the al-Na'imah area of Lebanon. One of the aircraft dived and fired three missiles on PFLP-GC sites. The bombing resulted in the martyrdom of nine citizens. They are: Hayah Fakhr-al-Din, Musa Fattum, a three-year-old child, the wife of Muhammad Ibrahim 'Awad, Dhibah

Hasib, and the wife of Hasan Ghandur and his three children. Four civilians were also wounded.

As for material damage, eight civilian houses were completely destroyed.

Resistance Claims Israeli Casualties in Ambush

NC1201134592 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] The Islamic Resistance today carried out a two-part operation against the Israeli occupation troops and Lahd militiamen [the South Lebanese Army—SLA]. The Islamic Resistance made a statement saying that the Two Martyrs Haj Rida Hariri and Haj Mustafa Shuqayr group detonated a bomb at 0900 today against a security patrol jointly manned by Israeli and Lahd troops at the Bayt Yahun pass. The statement said that the patrol included two Mercedes automobiles and a number of other vehicles. The statement said the explosion killed or wounded all of the patrol members.

The Islamic Resistance statement noted that following the operation, the occupation troops brought another patrol into the area. The mujahidin ambushed them with a hail of bullets, causing great confusion among them. The second operation left the members of the second patrol either dead or wounded. Israel admitted the operation but Israeli radio said there were no casualties.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1200 GMT on 12 January reports the following: "A large explosive device exploded this morning on the security zone border, causing no injuries. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the bomb was concealed in Bayt Yahun, which is situated in the northern part of the border pass. When it exploded, numerous Lebanese citizens were present at the site, but as said, no one was hurt."]

Fadlallah on FIS Verbal Attacks on Shiites

NC1201135492 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has criticized the Algerian Islamic Salvation Front [FIS]. He said: We noticed that some FIS leaders raised the question of Sunnis and Shiites in Algeria and launched verbal attacks against the Shiites at a time when no Sunni-Shiite problem exists. Some of them also tried to attack Iran and Imam Khomeyni because of the complications of the situation in Iraq, he added.

Fadlallah expects the rule of Islam in Algeria to run into considerable problems from international quarters and by some [word indistinct] circumstances.

Hizballah Radio Reports Bendjedid's Resignation

NC1201083492 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] The worst expectations came true in Algeria last night. The predictions of the abominable Western media were instrumental in encouraging last night's events. Everyone now knows that the democracy of which the West brags is nothing but a false facade whose function is to bring their agents to power to rob the wealth of the nation and control its political future.

Only five days before the second round of elections that had virtually been decided in favor of the Islamic Salvation Front, the tanks of the regime and its agents, apparently well-rehearsed on the part they should play to extinguish the Islamic flame and stifle the Islamic awakening, moved to turn back the clock in Algeria.

The theatrical resignation of the Algerian president was merely a green light and a signal for the tanks to move against the people who chose Islam. International arrogance has a narrow definition of democracy. It does not recognize cases where Muslims reach power.

Bangladesh

25,000 Burmese Muslims Cross Over Border

BK1101132092 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh External Service in English 1230 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] According to latest information, 25,000 Rohingya Muslims have crossed into Cox's Bazar District so far following atrocities by Myanmar [Burmese] army in Arakan. The figure was revealed by the district administration (?which) took up head counting of the refugees last Tuesday [7 January]. It will continue till Wednesday next. The officials apprehended that the number of refugees crossing into Bangladesh may ultimately rise further.

According to Rohingya refugees, Myanmar army and police are continuing atrocities on the Arakan Muslims, while a famine condition is prevailing in Buthidaung and Maungdaw areas of Arakan. The refugees said that Arakan Muslims are dying of hunger and malnutrition as there is no supply of daily necessities in the whole Arakan because of continued curfew there.

Commentary: Restoration of Burma Ties 'Imperative'

BK0801145392 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh External Service in English 1230 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Bangladesh and Myanmar [Burma] held second round of border talks at Teknaf, in Cox's Bazar, yesterday. An 18-member Myanmar delegation accompanied by a television crew and newsmen attended the crucial talks aimed at defusing tension along the Bangladesh-Myanmar border. It is understood that both sides held talks in an atmosphere of cordiality and friendship.

A Bangladesh Foreign Ministry spokesman said yesterday the Myanmar foreign minister, Ohn Gyaw, is expected to visit Dhaka sometime this month to discuss the ways to renew Yangon's [Rangoon's] amity with Bangladesh. The Myanmar foreign minister's readiness to meet his Bangladesh counterpart, A.S.M. Mustafizur Rahman, was conveyed to Bangladesh ambassador to Yangon when he called on Ohn Gyaw early this week.

The first round of Bangladesh-Myanmar border talks was held in Maung Daw on 30 December last to [word indistict] the explosive border situation arising out the attack on the Bangladesh border outpost by the Myanmar border guards, Lone Htein [security forces], on 21 December last. A jawan [soldier] of paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles was killed in the incident. The Lone Htein guards snatched automatic weapons and ammunition from the border outpost.

The first round of talks was held at Dhaka's request. The Myanmar side had admitted attack on the Bangladesh border outpost and regretted the incident, saying that the Lone Htein mistook the outpost for a stronghold of the Myanmar rebels. Myanmar assured that all arms and ammunition would be returned and all sealed border points would be reopened. The second round of talks yesterday was also held at Bangladesh's request.

It is imperative for Myanmar to restore the normal bilateral relations with Bangladesh since the fracas was created by its border guards. There has been heavy concentration of Myanmar troops along the Bangladesh border scaring thousands of people out of their homes. Most of the people were removed to safer places in the bordering districts of Bangladesh.

On the other hand, hundreds of ethnic Myanmar Muslims are still pouring into Bangladesh, furthering adding to the burden already caused by the presence of an estimated 40,000 Rohingya Muslims. Daily, hundreds are trekking the difficult terrain from Arakan to take refuge in Bangladesh. The refugees speak of mounting brutalities being committed on them in Arakan. Bangladesh expects that Myanmar will take back its refugees from the Bangladesh side at the earliest since their presence is causing a serious drag on our poor economy. It may be mentioned that Bangladesh Foreign Minister A.S.M. Mustafizur Rahman had visited Yangon in November last to seek an early repatriation of the Rohingya Muslims and received firm assurance from his Myanmar counterpart that Yangon will take expeditious steps in this regard. Bangladesh has begun surveying of exact number of Myanmar refugees who have taken shelter in two border districts of Bandarban and Cox's Bazar. But then, Myanmar has to guarantee that Rohingya Muslims are no more prosecuted in their homeland. Dhaka has already made it clear that it cannot push the refugees back to Arakan under humanitarian reasons.

The problems of Rohingya Muslim refugee exodus to Bangladesh is nothing new. It was in 1978 when about 2.5 lakh Rohingya refugees had flooded the coastal districts of Bangladesh. But then Myanmar, earlier known as Burma, lost no time in taking back all the refugees under the supervision of International Red Cross. Dhaka treats the problem facing the Rohingyas as an internal issue of Myanmar. But then the Muslims should be dealt with utmost sincerity and sympathy as they are very much a part of Myanmar's population. Bangladesh has adopted a similar attitude of sympathy toward its tribal refugees and a few misguided tribal elements in Chittagong Hill Tracts. The present democratic government of Bangladesh has not only protected the distinct identity of the tribals but also guaranteed that the elected representatives of the hill districts council in Chittagong Hill Tracts represent the population in the region and frame and implement development projects as per their hopes and aspirations.

India

U.S. Senator Pressler Arrives for Talks

Meets With Prime Minister Rao

BK1001160492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] New Delhi today conveyed to the U.S. senator, Mr. Larry Pressler, that there is no need to consider any

extension of the Pressler's Amendment to India as it is not a nuclear weapon state. The amendment is relevant only to nuclear weapons powers or those who wish to acquire them. India does not fall in either of these categories. Mr. Pressler, who is on a visit to New Delhi, was told that any attempt to extend this amendment to India will not be warranted by facts. Mr. Pressler had a series of meetings today with the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao; the external affairs minister, Mr. Madhav Singh Solanki; the defense minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar; and the foreign secretary, Mr. J.N. Dixit.

Mr. Rao told the Republican senator that the application of this amendment to Pakistan proves that the United States itself believes that Islamabad is pursuing a military oriented nuclear program. The amendment named after the senator bans U.S. military and other aid to nations which might be on the threshold of acquiring nuclear weapons capability.

Besides nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, Pakistan's involvement in terrorist activities in Punjab and Kashmir dominated the discussions. The prime minister expressed satisfaction on relations between India and the United States and expressed the opinion that there is considerable scope to expand the ties in view of India's new economic policy.

Opposes Denial of U.S. Aid

BK1101091292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] The U.S. senator, Mr. Larry Pressler, has said there is no need to bring India within the ambit of the Pressler Amendment and deny it the American aid on the nuclear issue. Addressing a press conference in New Delhi today, he justified India's decision not to sign the nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty in view of the security environment in its neighboring states. He suggested a U.S.-sponsored Camp David-type summit between India and Pakistan to resolve the nuclear issue.

Mr. Pressler said that there is enough evidence of Pakistan's involvement in terrorism in Punjab and Kashmir. The senator cautioned India against the emergence of a potential fundamentalist Islamic confederation in the central, south, and west Asia region with nuclear capability, which can pose a serious security threat to India in the late 1990's. He said a group of nine Islamic states, including Pakistan, and the five Central Asian republics of the former Soviet Union can be a major force causing problems for India.

Rao Says No Need for Pakistan Summit

BK1201145092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] The prime minister says the Camp David type of summit between India and Pakistan is not at all necessary as the two countries are constantly in touch with each other. Talking to newsmen accompanying him on a day's visit to Bihar, Mr. Narasimha Rao said moreover there is Simla agreement to sort out any differences. He said the situations between Egypt and Israel at the time of Camp David accord and those existing between India and Pakistan are not analoguous. Replying to questions, the prime minister said the U.S. senator, Mr. Larry Pressler, suggested the framework as a friend of India, but the two cases are totally different and Camp David-type negotiations do not hold good.

Reacting to the opposition criticism of the economic reforms, Mr. Rao said he does not feel that there is any breach of the consensus.

Commentary Terms Visit 'Significant'

BK1201100992 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Commentary by political analyst Rai Singh]

[Text] The visit to India by the U.S. senator, Larry Pressler, the author of the Pressler Amendment, was significant. It was under this amendment that the U.S. military aid to Pakistan has been cut off in the absence of the presidential certification that Islamabad does not have a nuclear-weapons program.

What is most welcome is Mr. Pressler's categorical statement that after his talks with the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, and others, he is satisfied that India is not a nuclear-weapon state and it is not trying either covertly to acquire nuclear weapons, as is the case with Pakistan. He said he does not think the Pressler Amendment should be extended to India. However, he added that there are two shades of opinion in the U.S. Senate, one favoring the extension of the Pressler Amendment to India and another asking for a repeal of the amendment so that both India and Pakistan could be treated on an equal footing. He stressed that he does not subscribe to either of the shades of opinion. He symbolizes convergence of the Indo-U.S. perception on one of the important policy issues concerning both the countries.

Senator Pressler's visit follows closely that of Mr. Reginald Bartholomew, the U.S. under secretary of state for international security, who was in New Delhi in November last and had discussed with Indian leaders the question of India's signing the NPT [nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty] and also accepting the proposal for a nuclear weapon-free zone in South Asia, which was supported by the erstwhile Soviet Union in the United Nations.

India's stand on this question has not changed even though China has indicated it would sign the NPT. It seems that China too, like the United States, is a nuclear-weapon state, and signing of the treaty does not affect its nuclear program in any way.

The treaty continues to be discriminatory. Mr. Pressler agrees that the treaty is discriminatory but believes that as none of the nuclear powers of the UN Security Council is ready to relinquish nuclear weapons, he has to work within the given framework. However, the U.S.

Government will continue to pursue this matter in the hope that in view of the change in the international security environment with the disintegration of the former Soviet Union, India's opposition to NPT will soften up.

Mr. Pressler's visit was a symbol of American concern over the proliferation of nuclear weapons. The application of the Pressler Amendment by the United States of America to nonnuclear states trying for a nuclear-weapon-state status was evidence that it itself believed that Pakistan is pursuing a military oriented nuclear program. The visit is all the more significant at this point when India is reviewing policy issues in the wake of important international developments, especially in what was once the Soviet Union. It has helped in clarifying Indo-U.S. perceptions on various issues, especially on the issue of nonproliferation of nuclear weapons.

U.S. Senator Moynihan Holds Talks With Rao

BK0801022692 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1618 GMT 7 Jan 92

["Spokesman's Statement on Meeting of U.S. Senator Patrick Moynihan With Prime Minister Narasimha Rao"—ISI headline]

[Text] Former Ambassador and Senator (Democrat) Patrick Moynihan had a meeting this morning with Indian prime minister. Senator Moynihan handed over to prime minister a letter from President Bush, which conveyed to prime minister American Administration's satisfaction at manner in which our bilateral relations have been developing. President Bush, referring to momentous changes which world has witnessed in 1991, suggested that these changes should inspire our two great democracies to work together and deepen our bilateral ties.

Spokesman elaborated that prime minister and Senator Moynihan also discussed international situation, with a special focus on dramatic changes in former Soviet Union. Spokesman said that they agreed that situation warranted close watching and future course of events was difficult to predict. Prime minister and Senator Moynihan also discussed United Nations and its activities. Senator Moynihan said that he envisaged an active role in coming days for United Nations. As a former permanent representative of United States, Senator Moynihan paid tributes to new secretary general, and expressed hope that Butrus Ghali would play a central role in strengthening United Nations.

Indian prime minister spoke of his long and close association with Butrus Ghali during his tenure as EAM [external affairs minister] and said that he was fully confident that Ghali would fulfil high expectations that world had of him.

Defense Minister Anticipates No War With Pakistan

BK1101163092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] The defense minister has said that he does not anticipate a war with Pakistan.

In an exclusive interview with AIR [All-India Radio] special correspondent Akshay Raut in New Delhi today, Mr. Sharad Pawar however stressed the need for caution in view of Pakistan's strategy of destabilization in Punjab and Kashmir.

Reiterating his stand against the use of armed forces to resolve internal problems, Mr. Pawar said he will take up with chief ministers the issue of states paying charges for pressing the Army into service. The interview can be heard immediately after this bulletin in our "Spotlight" program.

Says Russian Arms Remain 'Priority'

BK1201093292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0215 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] India will continue to attach top priority to Russia and other former Soviet republics for its defense needs despite breakup of the union. There will not be any change in the Soviet-based technology being used by the armed forces. This was stated by the defense minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, in an interview to the "Spotlight" program of All-India Radio broadcast last night.

He said the high-level Indian team leaving for Moscow will sort out the mode of payment and other issues with the leadership in the republics, allaying fears about the future of defense supplies. The Russian president, Mr. Boris Yeltsin, has already assured India that its military interest will continue to the protected. Mr. Pawar however maintained that simultaneous emphasis will be given to modernization and indigenous development of defense technology.

Iran

Rafsanjani First Sermon Criticizes Consumerism

LD1001165692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1130 GMT 10 Jan 92

[First Friday prayer sermon by Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani at Tehran University on 10 January—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted—Koranic verses] In my former sermons, our discussion centered on the fact that Islam has a program for human life and laws and regulations for a correct life for human societies. [passage omitted]

Men cannot achieve anything except through hard work and effort. [passage omitted—Koranic verse] There are many verses and traditions that clarify this principle. Since there are other issues beside this—we have prayers, healing, divine blessing, and other stories that the Muslims hear from this angle—a certain kind of complacency occurs in the minds of the people. This sometimes leads to deviation in the life of the people. Opposing or unknowing trends add fuel to this deviation. As a result, one can see the weakening of Islamic society in our modern history. We must accept that because of this very same incorrect mentality, today the Islamic countries and community have problems in their lives. We must see to this. [passage omitted]

Sometimes, people expect that life will be prosperous and consumerism free without hard work, effort, and toil. The worst thing for a society is to consume more that it produces. This is the most sinful social crime. Now if someone is ill, disabled, or cannot work, that is a different story. Healthy working people must expect to consume in relation to their efforts. This is how society is. [passage omitted] Iran is one of those countries in which more is consumed than is produced. We must coordinate ourselves to use those goods that we can produce in the future. This principle is not dominant in the people's minds, and as a result there are difficulties in society. This is because we forget natural factors. Our attitude is that God will provide. This is our mentality. But this is not the case. This is not what God wants. It is not that He could not provide—He can, but that is not what He wants. The world does not work like this. [passage omitted]

I have raised this point here to get your minds prepared. Some gentlemen may say: Well what about prayers, healing, and divine blessings. All these are true, divine blessing does exist, but will take place under the right conditions. Prayers will be answered, but not for those who do not create the right conditions for the answer. God will provide for those who pray and take action to provide for their daily needs. [passage omitted]

Second Sermon

CM1301134392 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian at 1600 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Second Friday prayers sermon by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani at Tehran University on 10 January—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] This week, I want to speak on two or three issues. One is about 9 January, the day of the uprising of the people of Qom; another is Kidney Patients Week, which was last week; another is the effective and useful visit of our honorable leader to Bushehr province; and there are also the talks which are going to be held in Washington in continuation of the Madrid talks. If during my speech I remember other topics, I will also speak about them. [passage omitted]

Here I should truly praise God; I also praised God when I watched the television pictures, I knelt before God, because after the demise of his eminence the imam—who was the helmsman of the ship of the revolution and the captain of our ship in those rough seas—at a time when we were concerned about the issues that we would face after his eminence's demise, God completed his blessings to us and left us with the most competent person as leader. He guided the experts to present the divine obligation of guardianship of the jurisconsult to someone who is capable of leading this ummah and society as they deserve. God be praised that happened and we achieved what we wanted. [passage omitted]

The issue of Palestine and the Washington talks I will talk about in my Arabic sermon, since most of the addressees are Arabs. I will just summarize here.

As you are aware, the UN Security Council unanimously condemned Israel for its recent atrocities against the Palestinians. That is, of course, a positive move. We should thank them for the unanimous vote they cast. However, there are some analyses mixed with suspision. I shall leave aside my suspicions. We should, however, acknowledge that positive deed, but we expect them not stop at condemnation. You saw in the case of Iraq how far they went when they condemned Iraq. Every day they advanced further. The same thing should be done with Israel. They have decreed that the 12 Palestinians should not be exiled and those who have been exiled should be returned. What if Israel does not return them? Numerous resolutions have been issued against Israel, but it continues its violations and no one says anything, or bats an eyelid.

If this point is not observed the Security Council, particularly with its record concerning Iraq, will lose credibility in public opinion. Israel keeps saying it will not give land for peace. The Palestinians withdrew and said they were not going to the talks. We are worried that th move is a ploy to deceive them, to bring them back to the talks. Of course, it has been effective to some extent, because the Palestinians said they would go. They were satisfied with the condemnation and went to Washington. However, they should remain alert. If they see that nothing has changed they should not endanger the interests of the Muslim world because of such ploys. The United Nations and the Security Council should note this; the Arab, Muslim, and Palestinian peoples already do. [passage omitted]

Peace and God's mercy be upon you.

President Receives Libya's al-Kharrubi

LD0901111192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani this morning received Colonel al-Kharrubi, member of the Libyan Command Council and special envoy of Mr. al-Qadhdhafi.

At the meeting, al-Qadhdhafi's special envoy conveyed a message from the Libyan leader. He stressed the necessity for further cooperation between the two countries. He added: We witnessed the effective and historic presence of Your Excellency and your dignified and logical speech at the Islamic Conference Organization summit. We believe that powerful presence fortified the Islamic conference.

Al-Kharrubi submitted a report on the issues raised by the West concerning the allegations leveled at Libya. He called for the setting up of an impartial international committee to investigate the matter. He asked our country's president to take steps, with the cooperation of other friendly countries, to prevent any harm coming to the Libyan nation.

Expressing his thanks for the kind message of the Libyan leader, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed his satisfaction about the expansion of ties between the two countries. The president also endorsed the referring of the matter to an impartial international body to investigate the allegations leveled by the West against Libya.

Tehran Gathers Evidence on U.S. Plane Downing

LD1101111592 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran's News Agency [IRNA] citing a high-ranking Iranian official has announced: The Islamic Republic of Iran is currently engaged in compiling a series of documents and evidence incriminating the United States in the downing of the Iranian passenger aircraft in the Persian Gulf. The documents will be presented to the Hague Court. This high-ranking official added in the interview: To compile sufficient documents and evidence in this connection, Iran has requested the Hague Court to give Iran until 19th Khordad [9 June 1992]. The request has been granted by the Hague Court.

Commentaries on Algerian Presidential Resignation

Resignation Linked to Elections

LD1201142592 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1052 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Greetings dear listeners. As you were informed in today's news bulletins, Algerian President General Chadli Bendjedid read the text of his resignation letter on Algerian television last night and stepped down from power after ruling that country for 13 years.

During the last three years, Chadli Bendjedid faced strong and extensive popular opposition.

In his resignation letter he stressed that at the current historic moment, he sees his stepping down from power as the only solution to the Algerian crisis.

Of course a few weeks ago Bendjedid, commenting on the time of his departure from power, had said he would not abandon the Algerian nation at the current sensitive time and that he would remain in power until the end of his presidential term, which is in a year. [passage omitted]

It is clear that the resignation of the Algerian president, at a time when the second round of that country's parliamentary elections is only five days away, cannot be coincidental.

In that regard, many political circles believe General Bendjedid stepped down from power in order to derail the current trend of events. Because if the second round of parliamentary elections were to be held in normal circumstances, then the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] would have achieved certain victory.

Therefore, it can be concluded that in the opinion of Chadli Bendjedid, his resignation, which would also mean his stepping down as chief of the armed forces of Algeria, would create obstacles for a decisive victory by the FIS in a number of ways.

First, if the second round of the Algerian parliamentary elections finally take place regardless of the current developments, in Bendjedid's opinion his resignation can bring to the polls those Algerians who did not take part in the first round of elections, thereby contributing to the defeat of the ruling party.

Second, according to Bendjedid, his resignation would provide the 100,000-strong Algerian armed forces with an opportunity to control many movements under the pretext of upholding law and order, particularly because many Army officers feel threatened by an FIS victory for their past oppressive measures.

Of course political circles believe that armed forces taking control, and other moves such as canceling the second round of voting or announcing previous votes null and void, cannot lead to any positive results. Because resorting to violent methods would not only change the current peaceful trend, but it is feared that those actions would finally lead to an Algerian Muslims' underground or military actions.

However, one clear thing is that General Bendjedid's resignation, submitted to members and the chairman of the Algerian Constitutional Council, who are also in charge of dealing with election complaints, can be seen as an expression of dissatisfaction with the outcome of the first round of the Algerian parliamentary elections.

In any case, one thing is clear: with his resignation the Algerian president has left current political reforms incomplete—the same reforms he himself had claimed responsibility for implementing.

'Gloomy' Future Viewed

NC1201204892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid submitted his resignation yesterday, 12 years after assuming office. Following the announcement and orders by Algerian Prime Minister Ahmed Ghozali, Algerian Army units deployed throughout the country, taking up positions around key installations, including the presidential palace, cabinet headquarters, and Algerian radio and television.

According to the Algerian Constitution, when the president resigns the speaker of parliament assumes his responsibilities for 45 days. But the Algerian parliament was secretly dissolved last week so the Constitutional Council chairman should temporarily take charge of the presidency. The Constitutional Council is expected to meet soon to decide on the second round of parliamentary elections.

President Bendjedid's resignation, just five days before the second round of elections, is an interesting and curious matter. It goes without saying that the sweeping victory achieved by the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] in the first round of elections, when they won 188 out of 430 seats, has made the ruling and other political parties face the truth, which was obvious but nevertheless astonished them. Following its first round victory, the FIS was expected to gain the 28 seats needed for an absolute majority in the second round, so many political analysts believe that Bendjedid resigned to prevent the FIS from taking power. His resignation and the Army's deployment show that the Army is in charge. More precisely, a military coup is a real possibility.

Some political analysts believe that the resignation was a response to pressure from forces opposed to Bendjedid. Secular political parties utterly failed first to cancel the elections and then to win many votes.

Of particular importance today are the political risks and the crises that Algerian domestic political life might face. There are strong expectations that a military coup could occur and the Army could take over. Violent and direct confrontations between the Army and the people cannot be ruled out. All these possibilities draw a gloomy picture for Algeria's future. If the one-party system, with its disregard for Algerian public opinion, had met society's needs and resolved its problems, there would be no urgent need for comprehensive parliamentary elections.

Despite the various conclusions and viewpoints of the various rival forces and groups, the only way to satisfy the people's aspirations is to respect their will and views and accept democracy. Algerian leaders must work within this framework and follow this course with full awareness and caution.

'Physical Confrontation' Possible

LD1301025392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Excerpts] After remaining in power for 12 years, Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid resigned last night. Following the release of the news on his resignation, the army units were immediately deployed throughout Algiers. [passage omitted]

Many analysts believe that under the present conditions, the impact of this resignation can culminate in preventing the coming to power of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS]. In the opinion of these analysts, Bendjedid's resignation and subsequent deployment of the army units can be tantamount to the takeover of the situation by the Army or, in other words, a cold-blooded (?another) imminent coup.

Some experts believe that Bendjedid's resignation may have come under the pressure of the forces opposed to the FIS, for the (?main) political parties which failed to secure a considerable number of seats in the first round of the elections had not gained any success despite all the attempts made by them to get the polls cancelled. But the issue as to what risks the resignation of Bendjedid will bring to the political scenario of Algeria is quite significant. The fact of the matter is that one strong probability is predictable. There is the possibility of takeover of power by the Algerian Army but it will lead anyway to a confrontation with the people. As to the question of what results can physical confrontation have in resolving the Algerian problems, one can say that the dark prospects of such a likely tragedy are already evident.

Had the single party rule and disregard for the demand of the majority of people would have resolved the problems of Algeria, naturally there would be no need for holding the general elections [sentence as heard]. Therefore, despite different conclusions and views of various factions, this point should be acknowledged that respecting the people's votes and accepting democracy point to the only way the country can move towards the objectives and aspirations sought by the people. It is, however, up to the rulers in Algeria to act vigilantly in this regard.

Velayati Says Iran Supports 'General' Disarmament

LD1001164792 Tehran IRNA in English 1445 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Vienna, Jan. 10, IRNA—Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said here Thursday that a general and indiscriminative disarmament is the prime objective in foreign policy of the Islamic Republic.

Velayati also reiterated Tehran's determination to materialize full implementation of the U.N. Resolution 598 which arbitrated peace between Iran and Iraq in 1988.

The foreign minister, addressing the closing session of the three-day seminar of the Iranian ambassadors in

Europe held in Vienna also stressed the significance of cooperation between Iran and the newly established Commonwealth of Independent States.

Elsewhere, he said that Islam is the pioneer in observation of human rights. The Islamic Republic of Iran, inspired by teachings and principles of Islam, is seriously following up observation of human rights around the globe and expects that the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) to take appropriate measures in this respect.

Velayati further stressed that the issue of environment protection must be dealt with seriously by all regional states as well as by the world community. He said Iran is ready to cooperate with all regional and international environment protection organizations in this regard.

During the seminar the Iranian ambassadors discussed topics related to human rights, the Resolution 598, the developments in the United Nations, power structure in 1990s and in 2000 and the OIC summit held in the Senegalese capital of Dakar last month.

Iraqi Opposition Urging Army to Join People

LD0901185292 Tehran IRNA in English 1705 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] Ahvaz (Khuzestan Prov.), Jan. 9, IRNA—Opponents of the Baghdad regime have distributed pamphlets in the town of Mansul in northern Iraq asking the army personnel to join the revolutionaries, an informed source told IRNA here today.

The followers of the Tehran-based Iraqi opposition leader Ayatollah Mohammad Baqer Hakim widely distributed the letters in Mansul and its suburbs urging the armed forces to stand by the people and aim their weapons at Saddam and his clique.

This has apparently prompted some confrontations between the supporters and opponents of President Saddam Hussein within the Army and as a result some army personnel have joined the opposition.

The source said Saddam's regime has set out an extensive operation to identify the circulators of the letters in Mansul and its suburbs.

Meanwhile, army units have been deployed in different parts of the city and its outskirts to crush possible popular uprisings.

In another development the leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) Jalal Talebani in a recent speech in Erbil, northern Iraq lauded southern Iraqi Shiites for their struggle against Saddam.

Talebani praised the heroic operations of the Shiites in the south and their direct military engagement with the Army.

He called for unity between the Kurds and the Shiites to foil the conspiracies of the Baghdad regime saying that Saddam had been weakened and the Army no longer seriously obeyed his orders.

He said there was division among the Iraqi Army and that military commanders might revolt against Saddam any moment.

Pakistan

Nuclear Technology Transfer to Iran Denied

LD1201122692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] Pakistan has denied signing any kind of agreement with the Islamic Republic of Iran on the transfer of nuclear energy. Hosayn Haqani, the Pakistani deputy prime minister, in a statement issued last night, declared: The published reports on Tehran-Islamabad cooperation in terms of nuclear technology are totally baseless. Pakistan does not intend to sign any agreements with any country, including Iran, on transfer of technology. He added: Pakistan's nuclear project is an internal one with totally pacific objectives.

Reportage on U.S. Senator Pressler's Visit

Says India Distorted Comments

BK1201153992 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] U.S. Senator Larry Pressler said his statement in New Delhi on Pakistan's alleged involvement in the events in occupied Kashmir and Indian Punjab has been reported out of context. He said this during his meeting with Senate Chairman Wasim Sajjad in Islamabad today. Larry Pressler said he had categorically stated that he could give his opinion only after hearing the Pakistani stand on it. He said Pakistan is a friend of the United States and he has come to Pakistan to study the viewpoints of its leaders. Talking on the Nonproliferation Treaty, he said Pakistan's proposal is a positive one for resolving this issue at the regional level.

Senate Chairman Wasim Sajjad has told the American senators that the best method for preventing proliferation of nuclear weapons in South Asia is finding a regional solution to the problem and committing India to giving a positive response to the efforts made in this regard. The Senate chairman regretted that India has not given a positive response to any of the proposals put forward by Pakistan so far to make South Asia a nuclear-free zone. Wasim Sajjad said Indian troops are committing human rights violations in occupied Kashmir. He emphatically said a congressional committee, UN commission, or commission from any other international organization, should be sent to occupied Kashmir to take stock of the widespread human rights violations there. He said the UN resolutions on Kashmir should be implemented in the same way the UN resolutions were implemented in the case of Kuwait.

President, Premier Cancel Meetings

BK1301033092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] The Pakistan president, Mr. Ishaq Khan, canceled his scheduled meeting yesterday with U.S. Senator Mr. Larry Pressler, who is currently on a visit to Islamabad. Diplomatic sources say the cancellation followed Mr. Pressler's remarks at his New Delhi press conference last Saturday in which he spoke critically of Pakistan's involvement in terrorist activities in Kashmir and Punjab. According to some reports, Prime Minister Mr. Nawaz Sharif has also declined to meet Mr. Pressler.

Kanjoo Explains Nuclear Stand

BK1301023092 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0100 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Pakistan has once again rejected as baseless the Indian allegation that Islamabad is involved in incidents in Indian-occupied Kashmir and Punjab. Addressing a news conference after his talks with U.S. Senator Larry Pressler in Islamabad yesterday, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mohammad Siddiq Khan Kanjoo said Pakistan's principled stand against terrorism is known to all and that Islamabad has always condemned terrorism vehemently. He however added that the people of occupied Kashmir are waging a struggle to achieve the right to express their view through a plebiscite, and to crush that struggle, India is committing atrocities against them; and under these circumstances, New Delhi cannot shift the blame onto others. He observed that the struggle for freedom and terrorism are two different things and the entire world now knows fully well what is happening in Indian-occupied Kashmir.

Kanjoo said he explained to the U.S. senator Pakistan's principled stand on the Nonproliferation Treaty and informed him that Pakistan will not accept any discrimination in this regard. Referring to the five-point peace plan forwarded by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, the minister of state told the U.S. senator that India has not yet responded to Pakistan's efforts for ensuring stability in the region.

Protest Lodged Against India's 'Propaganda'

BK1201154292 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network 1500 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] Pakistan has lodged a protest with India saying that its official media is engaged in hostile propaganda against Pakistan. The acting Indian high commissioner was summoned in Islamabad today and was told that the Indian official media is continuously creating hostile propaganda against Pakistan. The Indian envoy was informed that All India Radio is accusing Pakistan of fanning tension and presenting a (?hostile) analysis of Pakistan's internal situation which is aimed at harming Pakistan's national interests and misleading public opinion.

The acting Indian high commissioner was told that Pakistan hopes that in the interest of promoting good-neighborly relations, the Indian official media will respect international laws, principles of interstate relations, the UN Charter, and the Simla Agreement.